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Highest civilian toll of war to date

# Passenger train hit in Nato raid

By TOM WALKER, CHARLES BREMNER, PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL EVANS

NATO admitted last night that a missile attack on a railway bridge south of Belgrade had struck a passenger train. At least nine people were reported to have been killed and another 16 injured.

The Yugoslav Army and local authorities in southern Serbia searched for survivors amid the wreckage of the train, which was hit in a ravine near the Macedonian border.

A Nato official said the bridge near Leskovac was a military target. "There was no intent to hit the train, we deeply regret any loss of life," he said.

Colonel Dragan Velickovic of the Yugoslav Army press centre in Belgrade, said the train had been running from the southern town of Vranje north towards Nis yesterday morning when a Nato jet fired a missile that struck overhead power cables.

The train ground to a halt on a bridge in the Grdelica ra-



vine, adjacent to a road bridge. The missile attack appeared to have cut the train in half, partly dragging the coaches down into the gorge.

According to the Yugoslav state-run Tanjug news agency, the second coach was wrecked and three others caught fire and were derailed. All the bodies recovered were said to have been badly burnt. The injured were taken to a hospital in Leskovac.

Dejan Petkovic, a 19-year-old student from Nis, told the

news agency he was in the undamaged first carriage and suffered only minor injuries. He described hearing what sounded like an aircraft nearby and then a single explosion, followed by four detonations.

Svetolik Kostadinovic, director of the railways, originally claimed that the train was travelling from Belgrade to Salonika in Greece and that there were foreigners on board. But this was denied by a Greek railway company, which said that the Belgrade to Salonika train had arrived safely.

The most serious incidence of civilian casualties in three weeks of Nato airstrikes came as alliance foreign ministers in Brussels unanimously reaffirmed their determination to pursue the bombing campaign.

They also voiced alarm over the plight of up to 700,000 ethnic Albanian refugees who, they said, were being deliberately starved and deprived of shelter and medicine inside Kosovo.

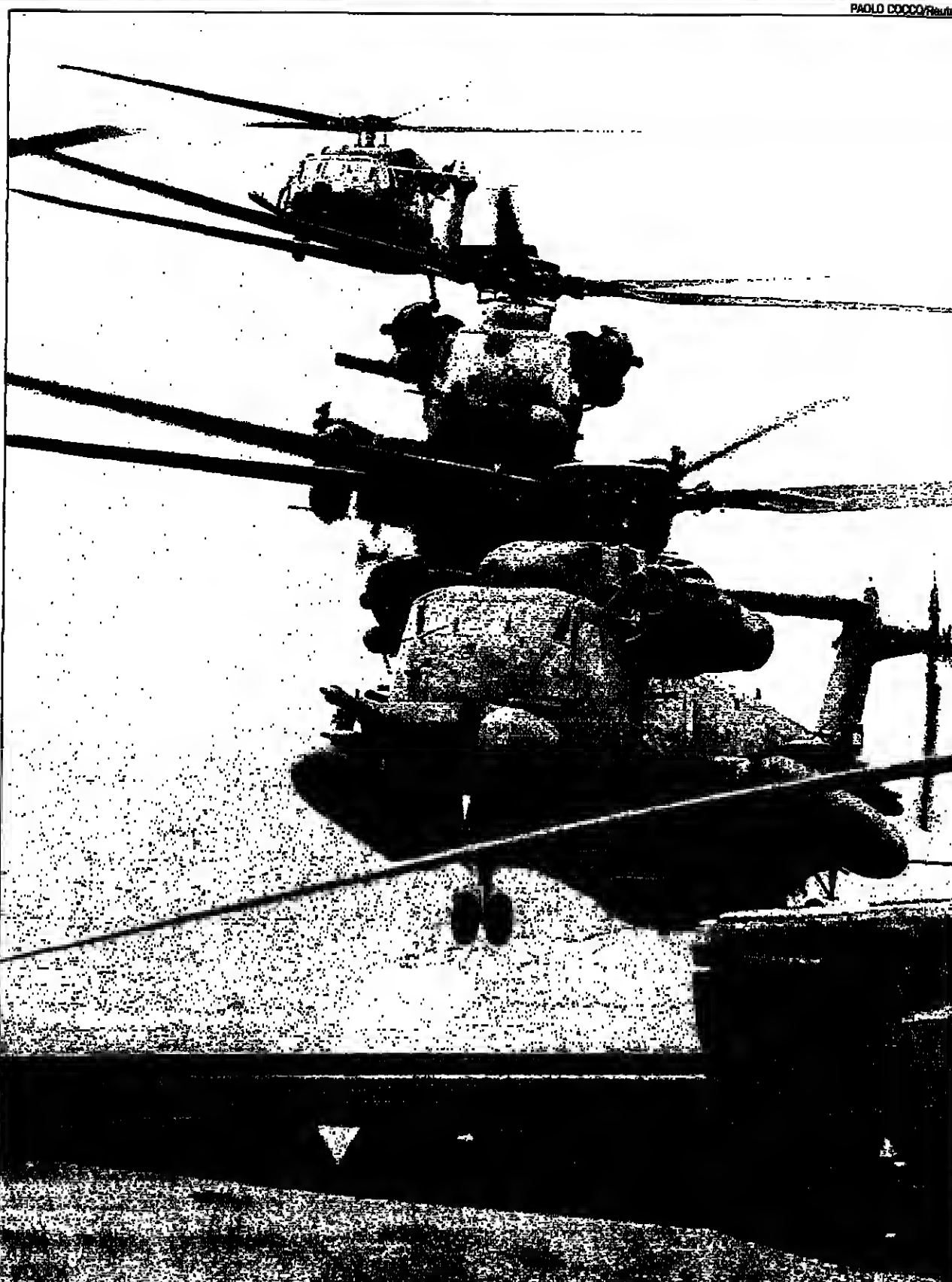
Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State said: "If these people are allowed to die, we will hold the Serbian authorities accountable."

Nato military officials were ordered to work on plans for helping the internal refugees and the Greek Air Force is expected to drop humanitarian supplies to them. A similar air-drop was carried out by Nato aircraft to help victims of the Bosnian war five years ago.

Taking stock of the three-week air campaign, the ministers accused President Milosevic of "appalling violations of human rights and 'criminally irresponsible policies'". Their statement added: "Nato's air strikes will be pursued until President Milosevic accedes to the demands of the international community."

Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, said: "Milosevic is losing and he knows it. Nato is united. We have justice on our side and we will prevail."

The ministers also warned Mr Milosevic that Nato would respond severely to any attack on Albania or other neighbouring states. There



US special combat helicopters arriving in Albania yesterday. Aircraft bringing men and equipment landed every 15 minutes

were further reports yesterday of Yugoslav forces shelling over the border into Albania.

While demonstrating allied resolve to carry on with the air campaign, the ministers held open the door for diplomacy and urged Russia to join in efforts to bring peace. Hopes are being pinned on a meeting in Oslo today between Ms Albright and Igor Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister.

Ms Albright gave the first hint that a partitioning of Kosovo was being given consideration, although she said it was not an option she favoured. "There are a number of ideas not yet settled on," she said. The foreign ministers again

ruled out the possibility of a Nato ground force fighting its way into Kosovo. However, General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, told a press conference in London: "As of today, neither Nato nor the UK have any plans for an opposed invasion of Kosovo by force. But this does not mean to say that over many months we have not been considering and making contingency plans for the use of ground troops."

He added: "We have considered many scenarios... we are not currently planning to implement any of these options." Tony Blair - who yesterday said that Nato would carry on pounding Mr Milose-

vic's war machine "day after day" until its objectives were met - will today tell MPs that Nato could face a long haul in its air campaign.

He said: "After the appalling scenes of suffering among the refugees it would be wrong for us to compromise in any shape or form on the objectives which Nato has set out."

"It is essential that we do not weaken in our resolve to see every single part of the Nato objectives secured."

The joint appeal by 12 leading charities for Kosovan refugees has raised £10 million in six days. Donations can be made by telephone on 0870 6060 900 or on 0990 222 233.

## SAS may be on the ground in Kosovo

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE EDITOR

SPECIAL forces troops in Kosovo are now believed to be playing a crucial role in helping Nato aircraft to bomb targets through thick cloud.

Although hitting Yugoslav military targets with laser-guided bombs remains the primary function of the Nato aircraft, poor weather has made it imperative to find an alternative method of bombing when cloud conceals the target.

After nearly three weeks of airstrikes during which bombing raids have had to be called off on about a dozen occasions because of bad weather, Nato military chiefs decided that it was necessary to start dropping unguided bombs through the clouds.

The decision meant that improved intelligence information on targets had to be acquired from the ground as well as from satellite imagery and reconnaissance aircraft.

Without giving any details, General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, said yesterday that intelligence on targets was now "much better" than it was two weeks ago, and that it was coming "from the ground, from satellites and from aircraft". RAF Harrier GR7s "engaged targets" through cloud for the first time in the air campaign on Sunday.

Britain never confirms or denies operations carried out by the Special Air Service. But it can be assumed that special forces elements are in Kosovo and that they are providing key intelligence to back up the rapidly-improving picture of where the Yugoslav 3rd Army forces are located.

The role of the SAS would be to hunt for and then pinpoint the disposition of Yugoslav troops and armoured units, as well as fixed military sites, and provide precise grid references for bomber pilots.

### ON OTHER PAGES

"I have to go to the police and buy them Coc-Cola and whisky to go into places and take sick people out. I have to make with the beautiful eyes and flirt to get things."

A refugee camp doctor talks to Stephen Farrell, page 6

The Yugoslav Parliament voted to apply for membership of a confederation with Russia and Belarus, while talk of such a union "ruined" the Duma's plans to get rid of President Yeltsin. It decided to postpone impeachment proceedings indefinitely.

Tom Walker and Anna Blundy report on page 5



Peter Brookes, page 18

"This is America at its best. This is America trying to get the world to live on human terms so we can have peace."

President Clinton's pep talk, page 4

The creeping escalation of Nato ground troops in Albania has raised hopes among Kosovo's refugees there that the allied forces would be used to retake their home land.

Sam Kiley reports from Tirana on page 7

Frederick Forsyth wants the West to arm the KLA. His solution is as well-plotted as a thriller. But life is messier than fiction. We should beware of policy based on good guys beating bigger bad guys and living happily ever after.

Vanora Bennett writes on page 18

Leading article and letters... Page 19

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## Lorry drivers promise more city centre jams in fuel taxes protest

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, ADAM SHERWIN AND RUSSELL JENKINS

LORRY drivers last night threatened fresh disruption after a nationwide protest which jammed motorways and roads in six city centres.

Growing anger among lorry drivers over recent tax rises prompted the second major protest in three weeks, with farmers and taxi drivers joining the demonstration in some areas.

Ministers responded by indicating that help could be given to British hauliers facing difficulty in competing against European rivals. One possible option is that new taxes could be imposed on overseas drivers working in Britain.

However Frank Stears, leader of the Transport Action group behind the demonstration said after the protests: "The question is have we got anywhere? If we haven't, something else will have to happen."

Organisers are torn over whether to target ports or re-

peat last month's single-site protest on the streets of Central London, a tactic that brought traffic to a standstill.

Unlike last month's protest, which drew more than 1,000 drivers to London, yesterday's action was spread out around the country, in the capital, police put the turnout at no more than 500.

In Manchester, some 270 lorries headed from Lymm in Cheshire into the city centre, causing serious hold-ups. Lorries also converged on Edinburgh, Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Exeter.

Police said no area suffered the same levels of congestion experienced by the capital last month.

The demonstrations are over a 10 per cent rise in fuel duty and a £2,500 tax increase on some lorries.

John Reid, the Transport Minister, criticised the action of lorry drivers who had decided to "penalise, disrupt and in-



convenience the public once again". However, he made clear that ministers were prepared to look again at the competitiveness of the British haulage industry and that help might be given.

He said that he would continue to talk to leaders of the Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association to agree ways of helping the industry. But he has refused to meet leaders of the Transport Action group while disruption continues. Although he has insisted

that the Government cannot "unpick" last month's Budget and reverse the tax rises, Treasury ministers are to investigate the impact of recent tax changes on the industry.

Hauliers claim that many more overseas drivers, with access to cheaper fuel, will enter Britain and undercut British companies. The most recent figures show 690,000 overseas lorries entering Britain in the year to September 1998, compared with 484,000 in 1996 and hauliers claim the increase is accelerating.

Dr Reid conceded that one possible sanction could be the introduction of a so-called "vignette" system, under which overseas lorry drivers would pay a daily charge that would not apply to British firms. A system like this operates in Austria, although the European Union may outlaw the practice if it is found to discriminate against foreign nationals.

Figures disputed, page 2  
Leading article, page 19

## £1billion garage deal

Sir Tom Farmer, who two days ago was the 315th wealthiest man in Britain, leapfrogged at least 50 places by selling his Kwik-Fit chain to Ford in a £1 billion deal. Sir Tom intends to remain in full-time charge of his chain of 1,900 car repair depots in Britain and Europe... Pages 3, 27

## Tapioca hope of cancer cure

The plant from which tapioca pudding is made may hold the key to an anti-cancer cure. Genes from the plant have been used to eradicate brain tumours in rats. Tests on human tissues are progressing well... Page 9

## Election plan

Tony Blair put Labour's economic record at the heart of his strategy for European, Scottish and Welsh elections... Page 12

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# Haulage dispute miles from ending

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Bentley family to fight decision

The family of Derek Bentley are to legally challenge the Government's decision not to pay them compensation following the quashing of his conviction for murder. Lawyers for the family are to seek a judicial review of the decision announced yesterday by Jack Straw and pleaded to fight the ruling right to the European Court of Human Rights. The Home Secretary said that Bentley's brother and niece were not entitled to compensation despite the Court of Appeal decision last year to quash his conviction. Mr Straw said that because Bentley's conviction for the murder of police constable Sidney Miles was overturned on the basis of mistakes by the trial judge, the case was outside the compensation scheme. He said there were no other "sufficiently exceptional" circumstances to merit a payment.

## Age of consent law faces delay

Government plans to reduce the age of homosexual consent from 18 to 16 could be delayed for more than a year if peers vote against the move to night. Peers of all parties are preparing to back an amendment to the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill that would kill it outright. If the Government loses, ministers say they will invoke the Parliament Acts to force the Bill onto the statute book but that would delay the law at least until next spring.

## Schools lose out on class targets

Three thousand places at primary schools have been lost because of Labour's pledge that no under-sevens class will have more than 30 children by 2001. The schools were unable to expand to provide required classroom space. But David Blunkett, Education Secretary, said 15,000 places had been created at schools that had been able to expand. In January 356,000 infant school pupils were in classes of more than 30, compared with 485,000 the previous year.

## New citizens 'should celebrate'

Jack Straw yesterday called for public ceremonies at which people would celebrate becoming new citizens of the United Kingdom. The Home Secretary said becoming a British citizen was "something worth celebrating" and should be formally recognised at events held regularly around the country. Mr Straw said the ceremonies would replace the existing system under which a new citizen gets a certificate sent through the post.

## GPs trained for drugs epidemic

Doctors are to be trained to treat drug addicts under new guidelines because drug misuse is so common that GPs have to regard it as a common illness. In a six month period 30,000 people currently seek medical help. The Government has updated eight-year-old guidelines and has allocated £50 million towards developing support services. More than half of those seeking help from doctors are in their twenties and one in seven is in their teens.

## Police relax Stonehenge bar

For the first time in six years police will not be enforcing a four-mile "exclusion zone" around Stonehenge during the summer solstice. The decision, which follows a ruling by the House of Lords, has led to fears of a "hippy" invasion with thousands of revelers converging on the ancient monument. English Heritage originally banned the public from the stone circle in 1988 after years of clashes between police and people attending a pop festival.

### THE ANNUAL COST

UK: corporation tax £126,961; labour £909,240; vehicle tax £160,500; fuel £2,775,000; total £3,971,701.  
France: corporation tax £188,423; labour £1,409,322; vehicle tax £24,300; fuel £1,650,000; total £3,272,045.  
The Netherlands: corporation tax £164,988; labour £1,591,170; vehicle tax £33,500; fuel £1,687,000; total £3,476,658.  
Belgium: corporation tax £197,184; labour £1,773,018; vehicle tax £46,450; fuel £1,612,500; total £3,629,152.

THE dispute between hauliers and ministers intensified yesterday with the two sides unable to agree even on basic facts about the effect of taxes.

The Government insisted that British haulage companies could operate more cheaply than rivals overseas because of lower employment costs and taxation.

Haulage industry leaders said that the figures failed to take into account the increasingly heavy burden of British taxes on fuel and vehicles, which represents one third of the overall cost of running a haulage business.

John Reid, the Transport Minister, was adamant that haulage firms with a fleet of 50 vehicles could save

### Two sides cannot agree on basic facts, reports Arthur Leathley

up to £819,000 a year compared with the cost of running a company in Belgium. He also cited higher costs in The Netherlands, France and Germany as undermining the haulage industry's argument that the Government was making British hauliers uncompetitive.

Hauliers then produced costings showing the huge additional price of buying fuel and taxing vehicles in this country. These suggested that overall it could cost firms some £700,000 more a year to operate 50 lorries in Britain than it would in France.

The gap between the two sides,

even on basic costings, is so large that a working forum has been set up to try to agree some common ground. Treasury ministers have admitted that detailed international comparisons have not been conducted.

The dispute over the competitiveness of the British haulage industry is deeper than a spat over taxation levels. Dr Reid has infuriated many hauliers by telling them that they are not efficient enough and that up to one quarter of lorries are running empty.

Lorry drivers insist that the heavy cost of fuel in Britain can add more

than £1 million a year to the cost of running 50 lorries. But even that is disputed by ministers, who argue that companies with large fleets are often operating internationally and so have the same opportunity as overseas competitors to buy fuel more cheaply.

However, even the issue of fuel taxes is not as simple as it appears. While a French driver working only in France might save £9,000 a year on fuel against his British rival driving in Britain, he would spend some £7,500 a year in road tolls that are not imposed in Britain.

Treasury officials concede that

huge amounts of diesel are now bought by British firms overseas, although they dispute claims made by the hauliers that this costs the Treasury £400 million in lost revenue.

However, many lorry drivers who travel regularly to mainland Europe say that they never refuel their vehicles in Britain.

Hauliers also claim that many firms are considering "flagging out": registering their vehicles in overseas countries to save thousands of pounds in vehicle tax levied here.

In fact, very few have actually done so, with many being deterred by bureaucratic complexities and the legal costs of overseas registration.

## Drivers' leader puts his big mouth in gear

By ADAM SHERWIN

AS Frank Stears, the man who tried to bring Britain's cities to a standstill, stood patiently outside the barred gates to Downing Street, he issued a warning to Tony Blair: "The Government can ignore us but we will be back with more and more trucks."

The 51-year-old haulier from Faversham in Kent has found himself the unlikely leader of a national movement. And with a thousand lorry drivers apparently ready to block the streets at his command he believes that the Prime Minister will soon have to pay attention.

His critics say he is a dangerous rabble-rouser but Mr Stears says all he wants to do is make a living. "I am not a political person but I cannot compete with the Continent with these fuel tax increases."

He employs five people at Stears Haulage, which transports steel and fertilisers. He has been a haulier for more than 20 years but he believes that things have never been so bad. "There comes a point where you have to fight for your business," he said.

Mr Stears has a couple of natural advantages that thrust him into the spotlight. "I've just got a bigger mouth. I can shout more. I don't want to be a figurehead but I did get a sense of pride seeing all

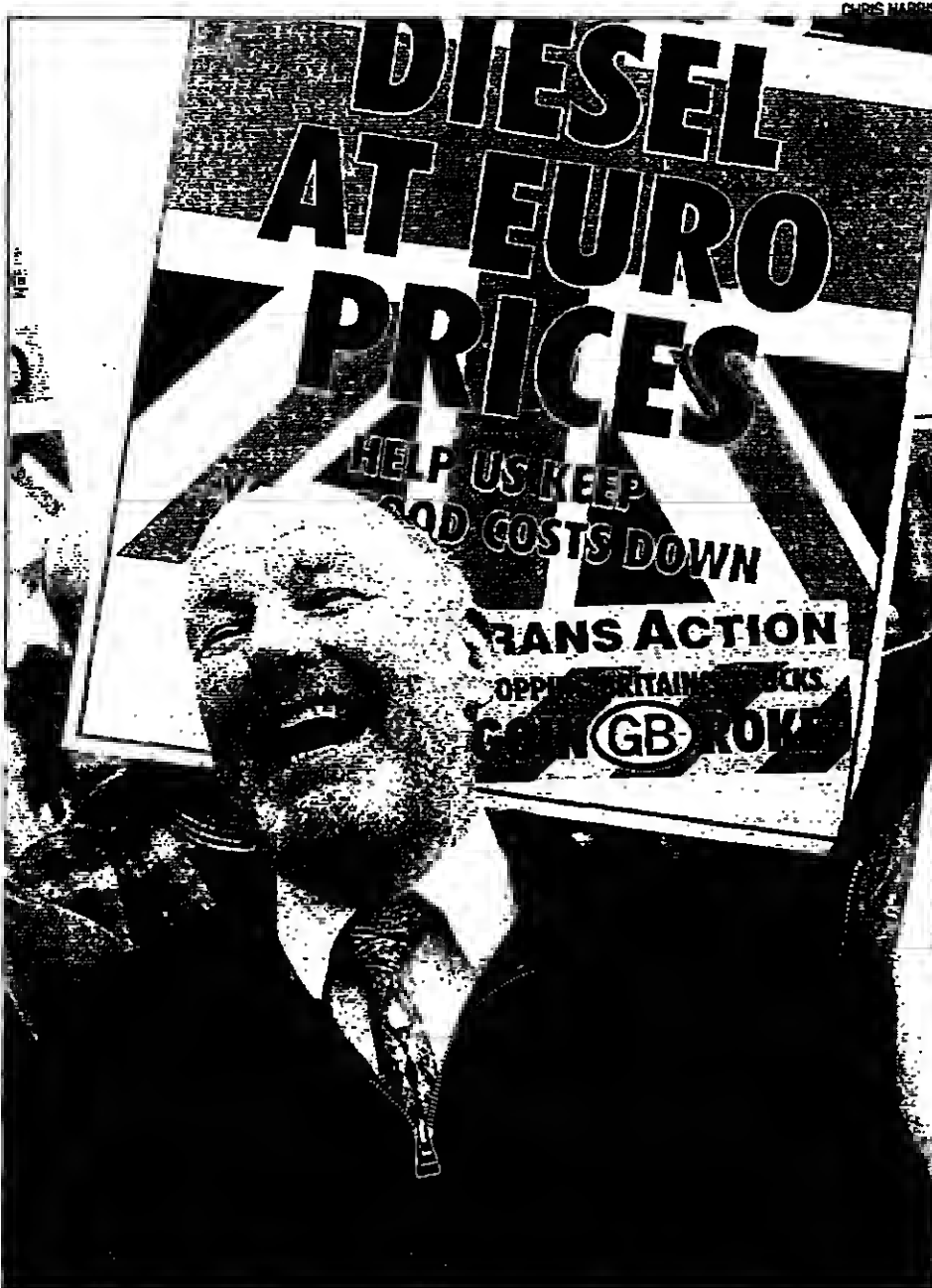
the truckers outside Downing Street." "Trans-Action, Mr Stears's protest group, began from a small demonstration in Kent. Within six months he had attracted a thousand members, who pay £25 to join and are given advance notification by post and phone about actions such as yesterday's.

Mr Stears believed that if the Government heard the voice of ordinary hauliers, a compromise could be reached. He now realises that that was naive.

"The Government will not take us seriously. They think we are a bunch of yobs. The only way we will go away is when we are all bankrupt," he said.

It is the sort of rabble-rousing rhetoric that has not been heard since the glory days of the miners' leader Arthur Scargill. Is Mr Stears a chip off the old militant block? "I am nothing like Scargill," he insisted. "Trans-Action has a committee which takes democratic decisions. But I don't want to bring the country to its knees with blockades — I want talks."

But others involved in the dispute consider him a liability. "He is doing for road haulage what Slobodan Milosevic is doing for Balkan holidays," one of his critics said.



Frank Stears: leader of 1,000 lorry drivers but his critics say that he is a liability

### CRAWLING CONVOY

A LINE of lorries five miles long brought traffic heading for west Manchester to a slow and bad-tempered crawl. The convoy, designed as a "friendly demonstration" against rising costs of road freight, upset some motorists, but the predicted gridlock of the city's centre failed to materialise.

With diesel fumes belching and horns blaring, more than 270 lorries set out from Lymm, Cheshire, at 8am. Greater Manchester Police had delayed the start for an hour to allow commuter traffic to disperse.

The hauliers hogged the M56 from Cheshire, slowing traffic to a snail's pace before turning off the Princess Parkway on to the M60 and then the M602. They then followed a route agreed with the police through Salford and around the city. A breakaway group of a dozen lorries



Steve Gill joins hauliers in protest at Park Lane

drove down Deansgate, in the city centre, but caused little disruption.

David Bratt, 61, one of the protest's organisers, said: "We are not militants and we won't be doing anything like blocking the Mersey tunnel and causing havoc."

### GOODNATURED GRIDLOCK

IT WAS a very British type of protest that saw disgruntled lorry drivers bring gridlock to Central London. There were no burning blockades as there might have been had it been organised by their French counterparts. Instead frustrated commuters grumbled mildly, the protesters could not agree on a chant during the march and the rain dampened any overheated temperaments.

Police cordoned off two lanes for lorries parked on Cumberland Place, leaving one for cars and buses to crawl down. Taxi drivers added to the cacophony of blaring horns. One driver gave a thumbs-up and said: "We are with them all the way. We are supporting them by driving slowly but people will say that is how we make our money anyway."

The speech-making rally at Marble Arch was curtailed due to a sudden downpour. Various groups saw an opportunity to cash in: one handed out a glossy brochure offering to help truck drivers to relocate to the United States.

## Missiles discovery adds pressure to Ulster peace talks

THE British and Irish Governments will today resume their last-ditch effort to save the Good Friday peace accord. Unionists claim the case for disarmament has been strengthened by new evidence that the IRA has tested surface-to-air missiles.

The RUC confirmed yesterday that it found two used battery packs for the Sam 7 missiles in a field near Pomeroy in Co Tyrone on Saturday night. Security sources said the packs were unearthed by cattle. It was unclear whether they had been used recently or some time ago.

The IRA acquired several of the Russian-made missiles through Libyan intermediaries some years ago to attack military helicopters. The missiles are shoulder-launched and can be guided towards targets up to two miles away. It is believed the IRA has so far fired one in anger, in 1991.

The Ulster Unionists said the discovery reinforced their

### Shadow of IRA arms hangs over the last-ditch negotiations in Belfast, reports Martin Fletcher

case for IRA disarmament but Sinn Féin intends to tell the Governments today that their proposals for breaking the deadlock over decommissioning, spelt out in the Hillsborough Declaration of April 1, are unacceptable.

"The Hillsborough Declaration turns an obligation to use our influence to secure decommissioning into an obligation to deliver decommissioning," a party spokesman said. "Rewriting the Good Friday agreement is not a proposition we will accept." Government

sources said that Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, would hear the parties' responses to the declaration today before Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, decided whether to return to Northern Ireland themselves on Thursday.

"We need to assess where the parties are after the Easter break and see how much room for progress there is. There's no point in them coming just for the sake of coming," one senior official said. "The moment of truth is upon us."

Officials are anxious to see whether Sinn Féin leaders will take a softer line on decommissioning in private, and say that the Government is ready to unveil its vision of a demilitarised Northern Ireland. In public, Sinn Féin insists that it has no room for manoeuvre on the issue.

The Ulster Unionist Party's assembly group agreed yesterday that the declaration provided "a basis for negotiation", but said it wanted clarification on several points.

It reiterated its demand for a credible and verifiable start to decommissioning before Sinn Féin could join the executive and declared: "The moment of truth has arrived for those parliamentaries who signed up to the agreement and have been extracting the benefits from it for the past year. It is time for them to demonstrate their commitment to peace and to democracy."

## UN expert raises fears over RUC

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR United Nations investigator cast doubt yesterday on the integrity of the RUC's investigation into the murder last month of Rosemary Nelson, the human rights lawyer.

In a presentation to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Param Cumaraswamy, the UN's special rapporteur, also backed calls for an independent inquiry into the 1989 murder of Pat Finucane, another Ulster lawyer who represented republicans.

Mr Finucane and Mrs Nelson were killed by loyalist paramilitaries and in both cases there were allegations of security force collusion.

Five human rights organisa-

tions led by Amnesty International also called yesterday for independent inquiries into the two murders but the Northern Ireland Office all but ruled out an independent inquiry into Mrs Nelson's death by reiterating its support for the appointment of Colin Pott, Norfolk's Deputy Chief Constable, to lead the murder hunt.

Mr Cumaraswamy, a Malaysian jurist, expressed concern that the RUC's involvement could "affect and taint the impartiality and credibility of the investigation".

He also claimed there was "prima facie evidence" that the security forces colluded with the Ulster Freedom Fighters in the murder of Mr Finucane.

### Inside Section 2

Coping with cybercrime, searching for a Euroball system, taking the class out of being a JP

Law & appointments: pages 37-43

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They still wear hats: a mock WI meeting from the calendar and, below, Welsh members of the first WI



"They're not like ordinary middle-aged women": members of the Yorkshire WI branch who posed for the calendar

## Men show taste for WI models of propriety

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

MEN of a certain age were hurrying yesterday to buy a calendar that, while unlikely to replace the usual collection of garage wall pin-ups, nevertheless shows life a little in the raw. It was launched at elevenes yesterday by 12 members of a Yorkshire village Women's Institute featured in semi-decorous poses on its

pages, and by teatime more than 500 had been sold to "older gentlemen".

The women, aged 45 to 65, are from the Rylstone branch, near Skipton. Tricia Stewart, 50, who is Miss October, partly shielded by an apple press, said: "We've all been amazed at the reaction: we've been in hot demand. It's a celebration of older women done tastefully that I

think men have been impressed by." The Rev Keith Hopper, the local Methodist minister, said: "I think it is a brilliant thing they have done. Hopefully it will make people laugh. I might even consider putting it up at home."

Terry Logan, the photographer and husband of Miss July, 55-year-old Linda, an artist shown behind her easel, said: "There's oo smtiti-

ness, which is refreshing. I think they're attractive photographs as they're not frightened of their bodies."

The calendar was conceived to cheer a member's husband, John Baker, who was dying of leukemia. Natalie Atkins, manager of one of the local pubs, said: "We think it's fantastic, it's so tasteful and so funny. John would have loved it. They

are not like ordinary middle-aged women, they're young at heart and enjoy every minute of life."

Rita Swallow, vice-chairwoman of the North Yorkshire West Federation of the WI, said that the calendar would help with the institute's change of image. "We have been involved from very early on, as has headquarters down in London. It shows we can be a lot of fun."

### RADICAL ROOTS OF AN INSTITUTION

The "Jam and Jerusalem" movement had radical beginnings when it was formed in 1915, inspired by progressive women in Canada. The aim of the first WI members was to help rural women to support the war effort, with one of the first lectures on jam-making. A competition was held in the 1920s to find a theme song. No decision was made, but *Jerusalem* was sung at the 1924 annual meeting and has been associated with it ever since.

There are now 250,000 members, including the Queen and her mother, who has been a member of the Sandringham chapter since 1937. The WI has had a change of image and has its own school, Denham College, near Oxford, which offers members courses in ballroom dancing, assertiveness and the history of aviation.

## You can't get richer than Mr Kwik-Fit

BY ALAN HAMILTON, GILLIAN HARRIS AND SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ONLY two days ago, Sir Tom Farmer was listed in *The Sunday Times* Rich List as the 315th wealthiest man in Britain with an estimated fortune of £75 million. By lunchtime yesterday he had leapfrogged at least 50 places with the acquisition of a further £77.3 million, all of it in folding money.

By selling his Kwik-Fit tyre and exhaust chain to the Ford motor company in a £1 billion deal, the self-made tycoon from the humblest roots in Edinburgh's Leith district has hurdled the likes of Sir Frank Williams, the motor racing team owner, the pop star Sting and Chris Evans, the radio presenter, each worth a mere £85 million or so, to sit beside the former Beatle George Harrison in the premier league of the seriously rich.

Sir Tom, 58, is a devout Roman Catholic with a Presbyterian outlook on wealth and an incurable dose of the Protestant work ethic. He intends to remain in full-time charge of his chain of 1,900 car repair depots strung across Britain, Ireland and continental Europe.

Having shot overnight from Scotland's 23rd richest man to its 17th, Sir Tom said yesterday that he expected little more time than before to pursue his outside interests, extensive though they are. The trouble with retirement, he said on a previous occasion, is that you never get a day off.

"I'll remain chairman and chief executive, and I'll be doing some work for Ford. Ford has its own strategy and plans

### Tycoon leaps up wealth list after netting £77m from sale of his tyre and exhaust chain

and, if the deal gets the go-ahead from shareholders, we'll sit down and discuss it," he said.

In his few spare moments, Sir Tom is a philanthropist of note. He leads annual pilgrimages of sick children to Lourdes from his local Catholic church in Leith, and holds the Catholic order of Knight Commander with Star of the Order of St Gregory, the highest

Sir Tom calls Hibernian his "social investment", but takes no active part in running the club, which has just won promotion back into the Premier League after being relegated last year. He is rarely seen at matches, preferring to spend his Saturday afternoons making surprise check-up visits to branches of his exhaust replacement empire, according to colleagues.

He enjoys foreign travel, having once backpacked with his son around China, returning on the Trans-Siberian Railway. He plays tennis and skis.

Sir Tom was born in one of the poorer districts of the Scottish capital, the youngest of seven children of a shipping agent taking home £5 a week. He now lives with his wife, Anne, in Barnston, the Weybridge of Edinburgh, and drives a Mercedes. He left

Holy Cross Academy in Leith shortly before his 15th birthday, when his mother saw an advertisement for a

store boy to work in a tyre factory. He would have preferred to join his brother in the Merchant Navy, but colour blindness prevented him.

At 24 he started his own tyre and car accessory company, selling it four years later for £450,000. He and his wife, whom he had met at school, and their two children retired to California, but boredom got the better of him. The family returned to Edinburgh and Sir Tom launched Kwik-Fit in 1971. He sold it three years later for £750,000, but, when the new owners failed to make a go of it, he bought it back.

Kwik-Fit expansion, page 27

The firm was sold yesterday in a £1 billion deal

award his Church can bestow on a layman.

He supports the Conservative Party with donations, although says he favours an independent Scotland. He was one of the first to take action to aid Kosovan refugees, raising £1.5 million in emergency aid in only four days.

But his most trying charity is his local football club, Hibernian, which his grandfather had a hand in founding in 1875 and which he bought in 1992 to bail it out of debt. It has since rewarded him with ingratitude. Fans complain that he has not invested enough, and he is under pressure to tip in more money or resign.



Sir Tom Farmer, centre, with his wife, Anne, and John, one of his two children

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## BALKANS WAR: AMERICA'S ROLE



President Clinton at a Louisiana air base yesterday where he praised BS2 crews for their role in the Balkans conflict

## US troops get pep talk and tax break

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton delivered a pep talk and a tax break to American troops yesterday as Congress launched into an intense debate on the conflict with Yugoslavia: how best to win it, whether to restrict it and how to pay for it.

In a rallying speech to the crews of B52 bombers, air force personnel and their families at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, Mr Clinton announced that US troops serving in the Balkans would be granted tax exemptions for the duration of the conflict and painted the Nato assault on Yugoslavia as an American crusade against evil.

"This is America at its best... this is America trying to get the world to live on human terms so we can have peace and freedom in Europe and our people will not be called to fight a wider war for someone else's madness," he said.

But hawks and doves, returning to the political fray after a two-week Easter break, are preparing for confrontation on Capitol Hill, where disagreement over the possible use of ground troops reflects public uncertainty as well as political divisions over Nato strategy.

With many congressional leaders demanding tougher action in Yugoslavia, US officials have begun openly discussing the possible deployment of ground troops; but Mr Clinton met a group of senior legislators yesterday to discuss the crisis and push the Administration's line that airstrikes will succeed if given adequate time.

John McCain, the Republican senator and presidential hopeful, has emerged as the unofficial spokesman for the hawks. Mr McCain was part of the bipartisan congressional

delegation that accompanied William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, to Europe last weekend, and he returned demanding a bipartisan resolution "that authorises the President to use all means necessary" to win, including ground troops.

Those views are echoed by several leading Democrats, including Senator Joseph Lieberman, who said: "We want [President] Clinton to know that we are not going to stop with the air war if that doesn't work." Mr Lieberman said that Nato would soon draw up plans for ground troops and predicted "the thinking" that

Nato describes will become actual planning.

Although some of Mr Clinton's supporters have criticised Nato for appearing to rule out ground troops from the outset, congressional support for a land war in Kosovo is far from general. Before Congress went into recess, the Senate approved a measure supporting airstrikes, but 38 of 55 Republican senators opposed it and many remain critical of the way Mr Clinton has handled the crisis.

Republican Congressman Tom Campbell said that he would introduce a resolution calling for a vote on whether the US should continue to take part in the air war. Another proposal calls for arming the Kosovo Liberation Army and yet another says that funds for sending ground troops should be denied without express authorisation from Congress.

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## An economy cut dead by conflict

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

NATO's bombardment of Serbia is beginning not only to dent the efficiency of President Milosevic's army but also to handicap an already sickly civil economy. It is this economic breakdown rather than battlefield defeats that may eventually force the Serbian leader to his knees.

The damage to bridges, roads, railway networks and pipelines is all too evident.

Nato estimates that it will take \$13 billion (£8 billion) to restore the infrastructure destroyed in the past 20 days of aerial warfare.

Certainly shares of German construction companies — there is no more cold-eyed measure of a war's progress — have been soaring on hopes of big reconstruction projects.

Serbia is being wiped out as an industrial economy. The bombing of a white goods factory in Cacak destroyed hundreds of vacuum cleaners and electric stoves destined for Russia, one of Serbia's most important trading partners. About 8 per cent of Yugoslav exports go to Russia and 10 per cent of imports come from there.

Other hits included a plastics factory in Pristina, a building company in Novi Sad, and the country's biggest bus depot in Grifjance. The Zastava car factory in Kragujevac — maker of the Yugo car — was flattened by six bombs on

the eve of the Orthodox Easter. A nearby power station was also hit.

The main targets have been oil refineries and fuel depots on the principle that an army cannot move without petrol and fighters cannot fly.

The Serbian army has certainly become slower. But farmers have also been unable to carry out the spring sowing and fertilise their fields. Even if the war ended today, there would be serious shortages this winter of corn, cooking oil and sugar.

About 33 per cent of Yugoslav exports go to the European Union, but the stop to European investment, the end of flights in and out of the country, the interruption of other transport routes, the blocking of the Danube waterways: all this ensures that the Serbian economy is cut off from Western markets.

A war economy conceals weakness, but only for a short while. German bankers assume that Mr Milosevic is keeping the economy afloat with help from Russia and China. Many leading Serbs and a few Serb institutions have switched their finances offshore, to Cyprus, and intelligence sources say there may be a Cypriot lifeline to the Yugoslav economy.

But the overall picture is dismal: Serbia is being driven into bankruptcy by its leader.

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BALKANS WAR: DIPLOMATIC BATTLE

Yeltsin evades Duma attack

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Duma voted yesterday to postpone indefinitely impeachment proceedings against President Yeltsin. A final decision had been due this Thursday.

"This is embarrassing for the Duma, but not as embarrassing as failing to get enough votes, which is what would have happened if they had gone ahead," said Leonid Radzikhovsky, of the weekly news magazine *Sedodnya*.

Mr Yeltsin had asked that the vote should be taken on Thursday as planned, knowing that he had campaigned enough behind the scenes for the seemingly interminable impeachment proceedings against him to fail.

The postponement is a part victory for Mr Yeltsin after a week of threats and negotiations as the President tried to avert disaster. "All this populist talk about a union between Russia, Belarus and Yugoslavia has ruined the Duma's plans for getting rid of Yeltsin," said Mr Radzikhovsky.

Mr Yeltsin is thought to have adopted a strong anti-Nato position in order to consolidate support in the Duma.

However, the President will now have to leave Yevgeni Primakov, the powerful Prime Minister, in place.

Had the Duma voted once and for all not to impeach the President, Mr Yeltsin would have been able to take radical decisions, such as sacking Mr Primakov, from a position of unassailability.

Peter Brookes, page 18

Belgrade votes for link with Russia



Lone dissenter raises spectre of new Cold War as Serbs turn to Moscow for military aid, writes Tom Walker in Belgrade

THE Yugoslav parliament yesterday voted overwhelmingly to apply for membership of a confederation with Russia and Belarus.

Vuk Draskovic, the Deputy Prime Minister who opposed the move, issued a warning that Nato's continued bombardment was helping to recreate a Cold War world which had revived Moscow's historical dream of a port on the Adriatic.

The alliance, which most Serbs hope will result in military co-operation, was pushed through by the power blocks of President Milosevic's Socialist Party and the radical party of the extreme nationalist, Vojislav Seselj. There was little debate, and the parliament to all intents and purposes looked like a government of national unity.

A forlorn Mr Draskovic, the one pro-European voice left in Yugoslav politics, stayed away from the session. "We were forced to offer our state to be part of the Russian empire, just to fall under the Russian umbrella against Nato," said Mr Draskovic, in his office above the vandalised ground floor formerly occupied by the British Council.

"Nato has gone a good way to restoring the Soviet Union and for the first time in its history to extend Russia's border to the Adriatic coast, fulfilling the dreams of Peter the Great," Mr Draskovic said the new superpower dimension to the Kosovo conflict would either help resolve it or precipitate a wider scale war.

Mr Draskovic cautioned against the forces of communism and nationalism that were waiting to re-emerge in any post-Yeltsin era. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist Party leader, was "half way to the throne", he said, and the lure of Yugoslavia was the "most expensive piece of cheese in history". Mr Zyuganov was in Belgrade during the failed Paris peace talks on Kosovo.

Behind Mr Draskovic's colourful language lay a genuine fear in Belgrade that the fight for Kosovo was now not only out of Yugoslav hands, but also beyond Europe.

"Eventually any deal over Kosovo is going to be between Moscow and Washington," Predrag Simic, Mr Draskovic's adviser and one of Serbia's most respected international affairs academics, said. "The ghost of the Cold War is back. I would be the last to see my country divided from others by a quasi Berlin Wall, but this is the way things are developing."

Despite a great deal of flag-waving, nostalgic rhetoric and Cossack dancing in Belgrade over the past few days, there has been little tangible evidence of how the new Slav alliance is to work. Moscow is known to have cold feet over the idea, and Serbia's sister state in the Yugoslav federation, Montenegro, has said it wants nothing to do with the alliance. Rumours are still rife in Belgrade, however, that Russian missiles could save the day against Nato's vastly superior airpower, which is starting to take its psychological toll on the Serbs.

"We are in a war in which we can't see our enemy for the first time in our history and we are very disappointed," Mr

Draskovic said. "I would prefer the bombardment to stop to seeing Russian missiles. But I tell you that the majority of Serbs want the SA300 missile system. They want revenge. They want to fight Nato."

Mr Draskovic said there was still time for a negotiated settlement, and he reiterated his position that foreign troops — though not from Nato countries — would be acceptable in Kosovo.

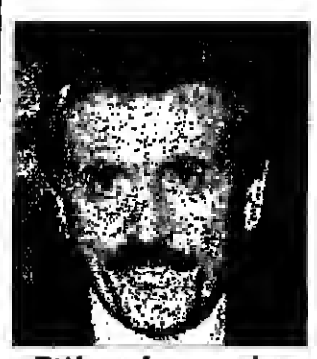
"It could all be finished in two weeks," he said. "Nato would have to stop its aggression and threats of invasion, and the state forces would immediately be reduced to the level of the Holbrooke-Milosevic meeting of last October. In those days of withdrawal we could complete a political settlement. There would be a full investigation of those who have committed crimes on both sides during these weeks of darkness, and there would be a normalisation of our relations with the European Union. It is the only reasonable way."

He said today's meeting in Oslo between Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, and Igor Ivanov, the Russian Foreign Minister, could pave the way for a settlement "that Russia wants but America clearly does not".



Robin Cook shows solidarity with Javier Solana at a Nato meeting in Brussels yesterday

D'Alema and Schröder feel pressure as anti-war sentiment grows



D'Alema faces growing anti-war protests

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

MASSIMO D'Alema, Italy's Prime Minister, faces a critical parliamentary vote on the war in Kosovo today against a background of growing anti-war protests across the country which threaten to topple him and split the alliance.

Virulently anti-war Communist members of Signor D'Alema's fragile centre-left coalition are demanding an immediate end to the bombing as

the Nato campaign enters its fourth week with no end in sight and more allied warplanes arriving in Italy.

Diplomats said that if Nato moved to a land offensive, the D'Alema coalition would collapse, placing Nato's continued use of Italian bases in question.

Signor D'Alema survived a debate on Kosovo at the start of the conflict only by promising to "make all efforts to restore peace as swiftly as possible". Italy has led the humani-

tarian relief effort in Albania — a former Italian colony. But now the patience of his Communist allies is running out and anti-war demonstrations are not only turning violent, but also becoming openly anti-American.

There is still bitter anti-American feeling here following the acquittal in February of a US Marine pilot whose jet sent a cable car plunging to the ground at Cavalese, near Aviano, last year, killing 20 people.



Schröder: majority was not as big as hoped

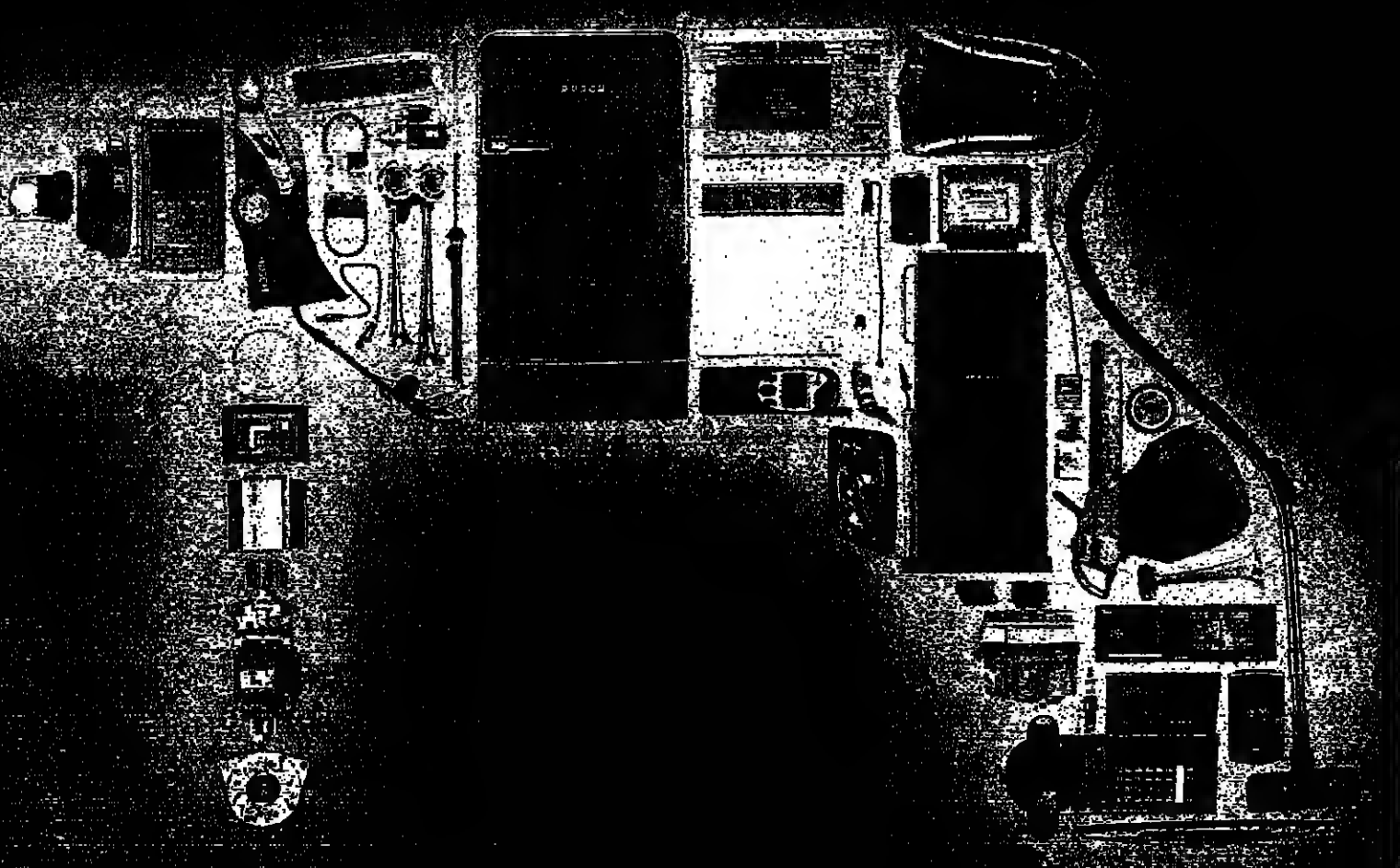
GERMANY'S Social Democrats confirmed the Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, as their leader by a 75 per cent majority at a party conference in Bonn yesterday, but the result was a setback for the country's involvement in the Nato offensive and a blow to the party's pro-business wing (Tony Paterson writes).

The conference was called to appoint Herr Schröder as SPD leader after the resignation last month of Oskar Lafontaine, his predecessor. The

result was a disappointment for SPD moderates who had hoped that the conference would give Herr Schröder an overwhelming mandate, enabling them to carry out the pro-business reforms they had found difficult to implement under Herr Lafontaine.

It also marred the Government's support for German participation in Nato's Balkans assault. The Chancellor's diminished majority was interpreted as a partial victory for the party's pacifist wing.

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## BALKANS WAR: THE REFUGEES

## 'Callous' guards block aid

Macedonian police are obstructing efforts to care for ailing refugees, reports Stephen Farrell in Skopje

AN EXHAUSTED doctor in Macedonia yesterday gave a grim insight into how obstructive police and shortages of medicine have compromised efforts to treat sick Kosovans.

While the lucky majority of refugees are cared for at the well-equipped Nato camps set up by British, German and other forces near the Kosovo border, 1,500 languish at the remote Radusa camp set up by the Macedonian Government.

Out of sight down a narrow dirt road, the perimeter fence is patrolled by armed guards who stop anyone leaving, even refusing to let sick children go to hospital.

Dialela Nela, 36, told how she had to combat callousness by guards in a camp with grossly inadequate sanitation, medical supplies and food. A veteran of the Bosnian war, she witnessed a Macedonian policeman beat one frail patient in front of her inside a field hospital, and says she has been forced to compromise her professionalism to ensure treatment for patients.

"I have to go to the police and buy them Coca-Cola and whisky to go into places and take really sick people out. I have to make with the beautiful eyes and flirt to get things. I thank God I am a woman because I can do more than a man but it is disgusting for me to do it," said Dr Nela, a Kosovan working with the Los Angeles-based International Medical Corps.

After witnessing at first hand the squalor of the Blace border camp, where 65,000 were packed into makeshift tents in scenes that shocked the world, she and one other doctor are now at Radusa. Less than an hour away is the military efficiency of the Nato-run Brazde camp, where over the Orthodox Easter weekend British cooks supplied a hot meal to every small child.

But here there are only a handful of makeshift latrines, access from a dirt track that turns into a quagmire when it rains and armed guards on the hillside to stop people fleeing, even though some have relatives or friends living nearby willing to take them in. Many were brought here from Blace by bus, but aid agencies were denied access for days and the only medical treatment was the one IMC tent.

Surrounded by rapidly diminishing supplies of anti-diarrhoea treatments and just six bottles of fever medicine for 1,500 people, Dr Nela arrived here only to be told by her predecessors that guards had refused to allow three camp inmates to leave for urgently-needed hospital treatment.

Among them was 18-month-old Anjeta Havolli, who for four days suffered constant pain and was unable to take her bottle because of an abscess in her jaw contracted in the cold, wet squalor of Blace. She feared the child could develop meningitis.



Dialela Nela says relief supplies that are flown into Macedonia are not reaching the refugees at Radusa camp

"This child must go to hospital immediately," she said. "She needs very strong antibiotics, which we do not have here. The doctors who were here before me told the guards that she and two other people needed to go to hospital, but were refused permission."

For Dr Nela and her colleague Genc Halili, Anjeta's plight sums up the muddle that has prevented the huge worldwide aid effort reaching those who need it.

Even though food and medical supplies are being flown in to Skopje airport by the

plane, by late last week they had plainly not reached Radusa.

"We have nothing here. There are medicines in the country, but we cannot get them. We are not able to help these people much more, all we can offer is a few good

words. Everything is confusion," Dr Nela said. "The IMC buys a lot of medical supplies and the UNHCR have the drugs but they are not releasing them where they are needed and are not making contact with us. It is bad today and it may be worse tomorrow."

## BALKANS SUMMARY

## Australia rejects Serb spy charge

Canberra: Australia denounced as "preposterous" the Belgrade Government's claim that Steve Pratt, the captured aid worker, had been a spy, despite his confession on Serbian television. Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, said he had demanded the immediate release of both Mr Pratt and Peter Wallace, a second Care Australia aid worker. The pair were detained 12 days ago at the Croatian border.

Mr Downer and Care criticised an Australian newspaper report which said Mr Pratt, a former army quartermaster, had supplied information to the United Nations while working for Care in Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War. Care said Mr Pratt's confession had been made under duress. (Reuters)

## Wellington sends aid

Wellington: A New Zealand military medical team flew to Kosovo on a humanitarian aid mission as the Government announced that it would accept 200 ethnic Albanian refugees. Jenny Shipley, the Prime Minister, said the refugees would be resettled with families of Albanian descent. The team's Hercules C130, with military doctors, medics and nurses, will carry food and other aid to camps in Tirana and Skopje and will work with the Red Cross. (AP)

## 9,000 flee to Turkey

Ankara: More than 9,000 refugees from Kosovo have arrived in Turkey since Nato airstrikes began, the Anatolia news agency reported. The report quoted customs officials in the province of Edirne, on the border with Greece and Bulgaria, as saying that 5,742 refugees, including 2,125 children and 1,988 women, arrived by road via Bulgaria. A further 3,363 refugees were flown to the airport of Corlu in north-western Turkey, bringing the total number to 9,105. (AFP)

## 'Peace Train' robbed

Yusuf Islam, the London-based singer formerly known as Cat Stevens, says Macedonian border guards stole DM60,000 (£21,000) from him as his relief convoy crossed into Albania to distribute aid to refugees. The creator of hit songs such as *Morning Has Broken* and *Peace Train* said: "We're here to help those people who are going through this problem of ethnic cleansing, and they've robbed us."

## Tudjman ally on trial for war crimes against Bosnian Muslims



Kordic arraigned on 22 counts of war crimes

FROM SUSAN BELL  
IN PARIS

A FORMER ally of President Tudjman of Croatia, the influential Bosnian Croat politician and military commander, Dario Kordic, went on trial yesterday before the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, charged with the "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims from central Bosnia in 1992 and 1993.

The trial, which will highlight Croatia's role in the Bosnia conflict, could also shed light on the inner workings of the Zagreb Government and in particular on meetings

which Mr Tudjman is said to have had at the time with Yugoslavia's President Milosevic, during which the two leaders are alleged to have discussed the carving up of Bosnia.

Mr Tudjman is under investigation for his role in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims, Serbs and other non-Croatian civilians from Bosnia — a strategy which prosecutors say was intended to give the Croatian leader control over the region.

Mr Kordic, 38, one of the most wanted Croatian war crimes suspects, is accused of 22 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity along with Mario Cerkez, 40, a

former car mechanic, who became the commander of a Croatian militia (HVO) brigade in Vitez, central Bosnia, and who the indictment says "was directly and actively involved in the wide-scale persecution of Bosnian Muslim civilians".

United Nations prosecutors say that troops under Mr Kordic's command murdered at least 100 Muslims, including women, children and old people, torching, shelling or dynamiting their homes and mosques in a systematic campaign to drive all Muslims out of the Lasva River Valley.

Many who escaped death were im-

prisoned in detention camps where they were tortured and sexually assaulted.

Among the most important witnesses are members of a British contingent of UN peacekeepers who have told the tribunal of the 1993 massacre of Muslims in Ahmici.

As a high-ranking member of the Bosnian Croat leadership, Mr Kordic knew of and actively participated in the planning of these vicious attacks, the prosecutors said.

For at least part of the time, he was head of the central Bosnian branch of the Croatian Democratic Union, which controlled both civil-

ian and military aspects of Bosnian Croat society. He is thus indicted not only for individual criminal responsibility but also for so-called command responsibility which carries a tougher sentence. The trial is significant too because it will focus on the extent to which a leader can be held accountable for failing to prevent or punish atrocities committed by subordinates.

Mr Kordic and Mr Cerkez were among a group of ten suspects indicted by the tribunal who voluntarily surrendered in October 1997 after American and European governments put pressure on Mr Tudj-

man, with Washington blocking International Monetary Fund and World Bank loans to Croatia.

If convicted of even one of the charges against them, Mr Kordic and Mr Cerkez face life imprisonment. Both have pleaded not guilty.

## LINKS

<http://www.un.org/icty/> — UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia  
<http://www.bosnianet.org/> — Information about Bosnia's people, culture and heritage  
<http://www.un.org/news/> — The website of the War Criminal Watch with a dossier on each indicted suspect

## Milosevic tops list of war crimes suspects

BY MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WASHINGTON has announced that nine Serb commanders could face prosecution by the war crimes tribunal in The Hague. But heading any list will be President Milosevic himself.

The Yugoslav leader has

long been suspected of masterminding the "ethnic cleansing" that began the war in Bosnia. He is now accused of planning the systematic destruction of Albanian homes and communities in Kosovo, the murder of hundreds of civilians and the reign of terror there. However the war ends, Nato and all Western govern-

ments are determined that he should answer these charges.

Set up on a shoestring in 1993 during the war in Bosnia, the tribunal has now indicted 83 people. Fewer than a third have been apprehended, and the rest are in hiding. But the indictments have already destroyed all the remaining influence of two war-

time Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, forcing them underground for more than a year to escape arrest.

Madrid: Nato is considering an attempt to capture President Milosevic if he is declared a war criminal. Eduardo Serra, Spain's Defence Minister, said. (AFP)

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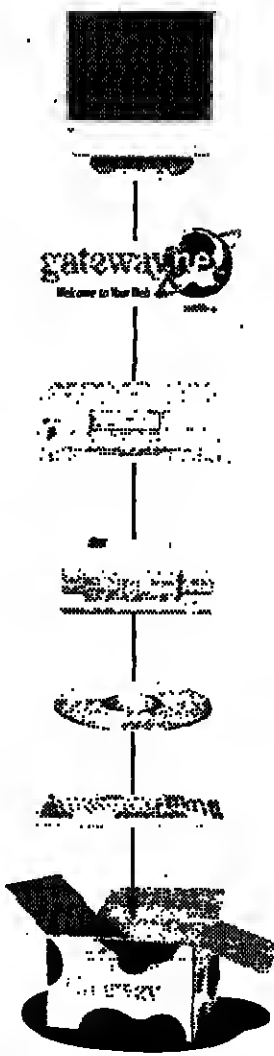
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هكذا قالوا



# Tirana welcomes Nato offensive



Albania is resisting Serb provocation and has given its backing to a ground offensive, writes Sam Kiley in Tirana

ALBANIA yesterday welcomed Nato plans to increase significantly the number of troops in the country after a spate of border incidents in which Kosovan rebels and Albanians came under fire from Serb mortars and machineguns.

Observers with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe said that three Albanian civilians and four fighters with the Kosovo Liberation Army were killed after four Albanian villages came under Serb attack.

After four days of fighting along the border, at least ten wounded Albanian and KLA soldiers were being treated in the Bajram Curri hospital, sparking belligerent statements by the Serb and Albanian Governments and fears that the two countries were sliding into an all-out war.

"Nato needs to intervene to neutralise the Serb artillery near the border with Albania because it has been firing in the direction of Albanian territory in the past few days," Petro Kodri, Albania's Interior Minister, said.

The Albanian Government, which met in emergency session on Sunday, called the mortar attack on the border town of Tropeje "a grave violation" of the country's territorial integrity. "The Albanian people and their armed forces are ready to face any military aggression," it added.

In Belgrade, Serbian state television said Albanian forces were supporting an attempted incursion into Kosovo by hundreds of KLA fighters.

The increase in Nato ground troops in Albania — aircraft were arriving every 15 minutes with men and weapons yesterday — has raised hopes among Kosovan refugees here that the allied forces would be used to occupy their homeland and set up a form of international protectorate, effectively removing Kosovo from the Yugoslav federation.

It has also boosted morale among ordinary Albanians who fear that the Serbs are likely to try to turn the Kosovo crisis into a wider Balkan war by attacking Albanian positions along the border.

Last week the Albanian Army, an ill-equipped force of men in thick woollen uniforms reminiscent of the Second World War, reinforced the northern border areas with antiquated artillery pieces.

A senior Albanian officer said he was under no illusions

that the show of force would make any difference to the Serbs, who have been digging tanks into defensive positions.

"On the one hand, they look likely to attack us at any moment. On the other, they are clearly setting up defences for a ground attack by Nato. The good news for Nato is that in doing this they make their armour less mobile and easier to attack," he said.

Serb snipers at the Morine border crossing tried to provoke Albanian troops into a full-scale battle by firing on their positions, he said.

"We have been ordered to maintain a low profile and not to react to the Serb provocations. It's difficult when we see buildings burning behind them and have to watch as they take refugee women out of the queues trying to get into Albania and rape them. But I am looking forward to seeing them all killed by Nato when the A10s (anti-tank aircraft) come in. That's going to be great," said an Albanian soldier on the border at Morine.

About 8,000 troops, mainly Americans, are due to arrive in Albania this week. They will be backed by 24 Apache attack helicopters and an additional 82 warplanes.

Nato continues to insist that plans for a ground invasion are on the shelf. But a spokesman admitted that they were regularly re-

viewed. In northern Albania secret service agents from most Nato countries have been working closely with the KLA over the past two weeks in selecting targets for Nato air attacks, and assessing the strength of the rebels.

Paskal Milo, the Foreign Minister, said: "The Albanian Government is ready to accept other ground troops from Nato. We have decided to give Nato the right to control all our airspace, ports and any other kind of military infrastructure."

The 8,000 Nato troops given the task of running Operation Allied Harbour, a humanitarian mission to help the 300,000 Kosovans who have taken refuge in Albania from Serb atrocities, were being seen as the first of a wave of Nato troops which the Albanian Government hopes to see arrive in the country soon.

Tirana has signalled its enthusiasm for the allied attacks on Yugoslavia and thrown what weight it has behind a growing clamour for ground troops to enter Kosovo.



Kosovan refugees turn away from the turbulence created by a Red Cross helicopter taking off after delivering aid to a camp at Kukes in Albania

## Morning after pills for victims

EMERGENCY supplies of the morning-after contraceptive pill are being sent to Kosovan refugees in Albania for use by women who have been raped during the conflict (Alexandra Preen writes).

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) said yesterday that it was sending a \$60,000 (£37,000) aid package that also contained condoms, supplies of the contraceptive pill and pregnancy testing kits.

Clare Hoffman, a spokeswoman for the organisation, said that such supplies were often overlooked in emergency relief situations in the rush to provide basics, such as food, clothing and shelter.

Ms Hoffman said that there was bound to be a need for the morning-after pill.

"In past situations, in Rwanda and Bosnia, we know that women were raped," she said.

**'We have given Nato the right to control our airspace and ports'**

## Alliance rethink on composition of Kosovo peace force

By MICHAEL EVANS

Nato governments are beginning to change their view about the composition of the "international force" that would be deployed to Kosovo in the event of a diplomatic resolution to the war.

Although the British Government appears resolutely opposed to any military force which is not led by Nato, other alliance members are already considering alternatives which might be more acceptable to Belgrade.

Until now, the position of the alliance was that Nato was the only organisation which had the command and control set-up, the military muscle and the cohesion to mount a complex peace implementation force. On that basis, the military annex to the Rambouillet draft accord specifically requested the signatories to "invite Nato to constitute and lead" a military force.

The annex also stated that the Nato forces would consist of ground and air elements and that non-Nato countries could play a role, provided they agreed to come under the political control of the North Atlantic Council "through the Nato chain of command".

While determined to stick to this formula, London has always been prepared to consider different labelling for the force to help President Milosevic overcome any domestic opposition to having a large military presence in Kosovo operating under the Nato flag.


Whatever the labelling, however, whether it involved United Nations or the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), London has remained adamant that the force would still be commanded by Nato.

A Foreign Office official said: "The one thing we have been absolutely firm about is that the military force cannot have a dual-key command arrangement, as we had in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the early period of the UN-Nato peacekeeping mission."

However, since Belgrade rejected the Rambouillet peace package by claiming that Yugoslavia could never countenance a Nato force on its territory, and that position would be even more entrenched now, renewed efforts are being made to devise an international force that could be deployed to suit all tastes.

Asked whether the OSCE could be put in charge, Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, said yesterday it was possible to imagine a force in Kosovo that would not be "under the direct authority of Nato". Germany is also considering alternatives.

But George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, remains uncompromising. "A Nato-led force is our plan and our view." He said non-Nato countries, such as Russia, could contribute troops, but Nato command and control was "essential to make sure that such a force would work".



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مكتبة من الاصل



# Tapioca plant may yield cure for cancer

Cassava gene produces virus that kills tumours, writes Nick Nuttall

THE plant from which tapioca pudding is made may hold the key to a powerful anti-cancer drug. Genes isolated from the plant have been used successfully to eradicate brain tumours in laboratory rats. Tests on human tissue are progressing well, it is claimed.

Professor Monica Hughes, a plant geneticist at the University of Newcastle, has been studying the cassava plant. Although it is a staple crop for 500 million people in Africa, Asia and South America, cassava is rarely used in research in the developed world because it is rarely eaten or grown in Western countries.

Cassava also has a deadly downside. It produces a toxin, hydrogen cyanide, to deter grazing animals from eating it. Thousands of people a year are crippled from chronic cyanide poisoning when the crop is badly processed during preparation and cooking.

Professor Hughes has collaborated with cancer specialists at the University of Automa in Madrid to study the plant's secrets. The work has attracted attention from pharmaceutical firms, which are now carrying out tests on hu-

man tissue cultures with promising results.

Professor Hughes, of Newcastle's School of Biochemistry and Genetics, said yesterday that, if trials in human beings went well, a possible new treatment for cancer could be available in "five to ten years".

Cassava produces a chemical called linamarin and an enzyme known as linamarase, which breaks down the linamarin into the cyanide compound. Professor Hughes has isolated and cloned the gene in cassava that makes the enzyme. This, in turn, has been genetically engineered into a retrovirus that can punch its way into cells to deliver a deadly payload.

The virus has been tested by the Spanish collaborators on brain tumours in laboratory rats. The tumour cells are injected with a steady drip of linamarin and then the virus is injected into the cancer cells to trigger the deadly reaction.

The team found that the brain tumour was destroyed in about a week. But neighbouring healthy cells, which were not impregnated with linamarin, were largely left unharmed. Any linamarin that escapes from the treatment area to other parts of the body is excreted harmlessly in the urine.

Professor Hughes, whose seven years of research has been funded under a European Union programme, said that the team also hoped to develop genetically modified strains of cassava in which the cyanide production is switched off, to reduce ill health in the developing world.

A spokesman for the University of Newcastle said yesterday that on no account should it be inferred that eating tapioca pudding could cure cancer.



A dancer of the English National Ballet rehearses *Swan Lake* in London yesterday. The group is to take the production to Australia and Hong Kong

## GP told patient with stab wound to treat himself

A VILLAGE GP left the scene of an attempted suicide, in which a man stabbed himself in the throat, telling relatives to stanch the blood themselves, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Sivagurunathan Srirangalingam, who was born in Sri Lanka, admitted neglecting three patients and was found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

In the case of the attempted suicide, he had previously told the family he could not call as his car was blocked by snow. He made no attempt to call out another doctor. An-

other patient who called him out because she was vomiting was told that she was suffering a reaction to medication and would feel better the next day. She died later in hospital from a brain haemorrhage.

In a third case, involving a woman suffering abnormally swollen legs, the doctor failed to examine her adequately and missed the fact that she was suffering from cirrhosis of the liver. Some weeks later worried relatives took her to hospital, where she died.

Edward Henry, for the council, acknowledged that the patients' deaths were not

being directly attributed to the doctor's failures. However, he had neglected his "fundamental responsibilities" to them. The council's professional conduct committee placed stringent conditions on the doctor for 12 months.

He was ordered to improve his knowledge of therapeutic medicine and seek advice about his clinical practice. He was also ordered to reduce the number of patients, currently more than 4,000. The doctor, from Trindon Station, Co Durham, admitted failing to treat his patients adequately.

## Pupils hired to remove asbestos

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO brothers employed schoolboys to remove dangerous asbestos lagging from a factory, a court was told yesterday. Andrew Medley and his brother, Neil, have admitted using two boys aged 15 and one aged 14 during work at a turbine plant.

Leeds Crown Court was told that Neil Medley, 37, from Monston, West Yorkshire, and Andrew Medley, 36, from Rawdon, Leeds, were directors of Medleys Ltd, which specialised in stripping the potential-

ly lethal mineral insulation, and was put into liquidation in 1996.

Among several breaches of health and safety legislation that Neil Medley admitted were: exposing staff to asbestos while carrying out work at Howsham Hall School in Malton, North Yorkshire, in 1994; and exposing people to asbestos at AET Components at Yeadon, near Leeds, without ensuring that the premises were cleaned, in 1996.

The brothers will be sentenced on Friday. A further charge of allowing waste asbestos to be deposited on land was adjourned.

## Former inspector became cheating constable

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A FORMER inspector in the Hong Kong Police thought that traffic duties were beneath him when he returned to Britain as a lowly constable.

John Lee, 32, who had been used to leading a team fighting serious crime in what was a British colony, cut corners when investigating minor road traffic accidents for Greater Manchester Police. He failed to carry out inquiries into two accidents, making up paperwork to suggest there was no point in proceeding.

At Minshull Street Crown Court yesterday Lee was fined £1,000 with £700 costs after admitting two charges of misconduct in public office. He now faces a disciplinary hearing and dismissal from the force.

Judge Woodward told Lee that he had been too lazy to put himself out over what he considered to be minor incidents. "It may well be the fact that you had worked at a higher level on more serious work in Hong Kong. Coming back to the UK to work in traffic was below your capabilities and you thought you were justified in taking this action. I hope you are now disabused of this view."

Kate Blackwell, for the prosecution, said that Lee, from Worsley, committed the offences between June 1997 and October last year while based at Moston, Manchester. In the first accident security cameras had filmed a Mercedes crashing into a parked car. The driver accepted the blame and offered to pay for the damage but Lee said there was insufficient evidence to proceed.

In the second incident a driver had sped off after shunting a vehicle from behind. The owner of the damaged car took the offender's registration number but Lee did not take a statement. When he filed his report it contained a false statement and a false address.

Philip Cattan, for Lee, said his client had been used to a supervisory role and had no experience of dealing with traffic cases. "This man has lost his good character that led him to be an inspector for seven years in the Hong Kong Police."



Monica Hughes: hopeful of drug within ten years

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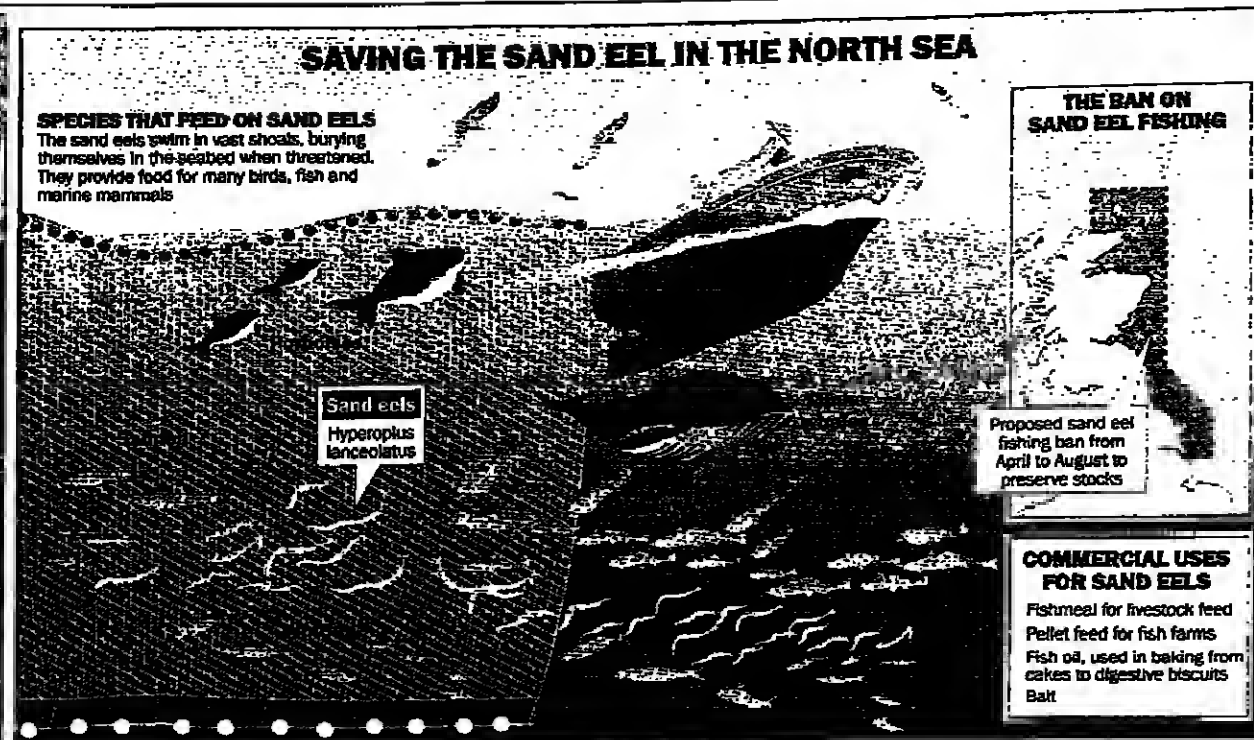
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The breeding success of kittiwakes on the Isle of May has been severely affected by the loss of sand eels, which also provide food for mammals such as minke whales and porpoises



# Fishing ban to save birds

NORTH SEA sand eel fishing is facing a seasonal ban because of a dramatic decline in life at key nesting sites for seabirds. A powerful committee of scientists that advises the European Commission is to propose the ban on the mainly Danish industry after British researchers showed that it could also be harming wildlife such as seals, salmon and whales.

The researchers, from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Banchory, Aberdeenshire, recorded a dramatic fall in the population and breeding success of kittiwakes on the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth. The birds share the same sand eel grounds as the fishermen. In 1990 there were 8,129 pairs of kittiwakes. The new

## Decline in kittiwake colony is blamed on sand eel industry, reports Nick Nuttall

studies on population size, breeding success and survival rates suggest that there will be between 2,000 and 4,500 pairs breeding in 2002. In 1997, 4,000 chicks survived to leave the nest: last year there were fewer than 100.

The researchers found that the birds, which are faithful to breeding sites, rely heavily on the sand eels in and around an area on the east coast known as Wee Bankie. Sarah Wanless, from the institute, said yesterday that the kittiwakes were the "canary in the coal mine".

## Meacher hopes to catch two prey with one Bill

BY NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A COMPREHENSIVE Countryside Bill is being drawn up for the Queen's Speech. The Bill, piloted by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, will increase protection for animals and plants and fulfil government commitments to providing the right to roam on private land.

There is also an outside chance that it will strengthen protection of hedgerows and areas of outstanding natural beauty. It is hoped that merging several pieces of legislation will save them from falling off the legislative timetable.

News of the plan comes as 21 leading wildlife and conservation groups today present a 250,000-name petition to John Prescott, the Environment Secretary, demanding improvements to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Act covers the protection of sites of special scientific interest, lowland wildflower meadows, ancient woodland and heath-

lands, and species such as the dormouse and red squirrel. Yesterday Mr Meacher confirmed that he hoped to combine legislation on the right to roam with protection for scientific sites. Sources close to the minister said the laws would protect almost 5,000 sites in England and Wales, with stiffer fines for landowners and farmers who damage them.

The laws, which would cover off-road activities of four-wheel-drive and motorcycle enthusiasts, would require offenders to repair damage.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mardi Gra bomber 'has brain damage'

The judge in the Mardi Gra bombing case agreed yesterday to hear evidence from a neuropsychiatrist tomorrow after it was claimed that Edgar Pearce, 61, who has admitted planting 56 devices at Barclays banks and Sainsbury stores, is suffering from brain damage and should be sent to Broadmoor special hospital. Nadine Radford, QC, Pearce's counsel, said that a stroke had apparently triggered long-term deterioration that would be worsened by prison conditions. Michael Hyam, the Recorder of London, said at the Old Bailey that Pearce's condition seemed like that of many other men of his age who drank too much or who could be facing jail, but he wanted to make sure that Pearce, of Chiswick, West London, suffered no injustice.

### Composer's funeral

Mourners filled Golders Green crematorium, London, to overflow for the funeral of the composer Lionel Bart. One of his songs, *Where is Love?*, from *Oliver!*, was sung by the soprano Philip Cross before the committal prayers. Sir Cameron Mackintosh said: "He was continually pushing the boundaries of the musical forward." Donovan, the pop star, who knew Bart for 30 years, said: "There's not one songwriter I know whom Lionel has not influenced."

### Yard sees interviews

Scotland Yard detectives were given legal access yesterday to material from the Granada TV interviews with the five suspects arrested for the murder of Stephen Lawrence. Michael Hyams, the Recorder of London, made an order for disclosure under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act during a hearing in chambers at the Old Bailey. The interviews, by Martin Bashir, were shown in the first edition of the *Tonight* programme broadcast last Thursday.

### Clinton invitation

Hilary Clinton is to join Cherie Booth, QC, in addressing a conference of judges and lawyers in London next month on child abuse. Mrs Clinton, a lawyer with a longstanding interest in children and the law, is coming at the personal invitation of Ms Booth, who will chair the event, organised by the charity ChildLine. The conference will discuss improvements to the way the criminal and civil justice systems deal with children. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will also speak.

### Search for cancer gene

Brothers and sisters born with a large number of moles are being recruited for research into the genes responsible for malignant melanoma, the most serious skin cancer, which kills 1,500 people a year. People with 50 or more moles are more susceptible to it, and doctors believe they carry the same genes that are responsible for the cancer. Volunteers, who should come from a family with at least three or four siblings, should telephone Doug Easton on 01223 740160.

### Claws in the contract

The buyer of a 19th-century stone cottage for sale in the countryside near Bath will have to sign a contract agreeing to look after the current owner's cat. Diane Marriott said that she thought it would be unfair to uproot her six-year-old pet, Lily, from their home in the village of Timbury when she moves to Birmingham. "Lily is a country cat," Ms Marriott said. "She knows the village like the back of her paw and all the neighbours love her."

## THREE-YEAR CENSUS AIMS TO COUNT EVERY SEABIRD

Elliot Morley, the Agriculture Minister, right, helps to launch a survey to count the millions of seabirds living around the coasts of Britain and Ireland. The project, Seabird 2000, which will use hundreds of volunteers and take three years, is being run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. An RSPB spokesman said at the launch at Bampton Cliffs Nature Reserve, Hampshire, that new techniques would be pioneered including playing calls at night to burrowing seabirds such as stormy petrels. "The volunteers will then count the calls coming back to assess how many are in the burrows," he said.



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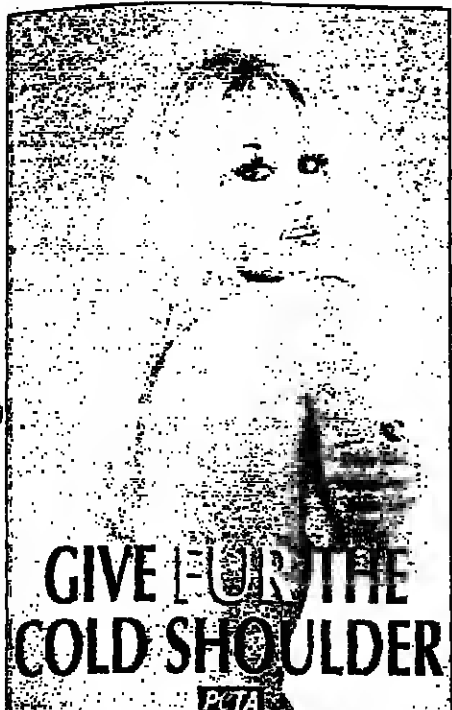
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# Animal lovers enlist Christ in meat war



One of PETA's earlier campaigns was directed at the fur trade, and won the support of stars such as Pamela Anderson

THE billboard was deep in the Bible Belt, but it was also in the heart of cattle country, and beef won out over religion. After just three days the hoarding was gone, taken down amid a storm of controversy in Amarillo, Texas.

The advertisement had carried a bold and provocative headline: "Jesus Was a Vegetarian". In smaller type it read, "Show respect for God's creatures — follow Him". Alongside was a portrait of Jesus, with an orange slice for a halo.

The message was from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), an activist group which has recruited Jesus to its campaign to stop the slaughter of animals.

Advertising in Amarillo was a calculated way of attracting publicity. After all, it was Amarillo cattlemen who sued Oprah Winfrey, seeking damages of \$11 million (£6.9 million) from the television hostess for "defaming" the beef industry by raising the spectre of "mad cow" disease. They lost.

The question of whether Christ was in fact a vegetarian is stirring debate among Christians. Bruce Friedrich, Peta's vegetarian co-ordinator and a Roman Catholic, cites

**Activists challenge Texas ranchers on their home turf.**

**Ian Brodie writes**

scholarly research as indicating that Christ belonged to the Essenes, a Jewish sect that according to some historians rejected animal sacrifices and were strict vegetarians.

Mr Friedrich argues that in biblical times animal sacrifice was an excuse for humans to eat animal flesh, but Christ challenged sacrifices at every turn. In Mr Friedrich's view, the Last Supper was a vegetarian Passover meal. He argues that Christ's message of compassion and love for all God's creation is obviously at odds with the miserable lives and violent deaths suffered by animals in factory farms and slaughterhouses. "He would be appalled by the degree of torture we inflict on fish and animals to indulge our acquired taste for their flesh," Mr Friedrich said.

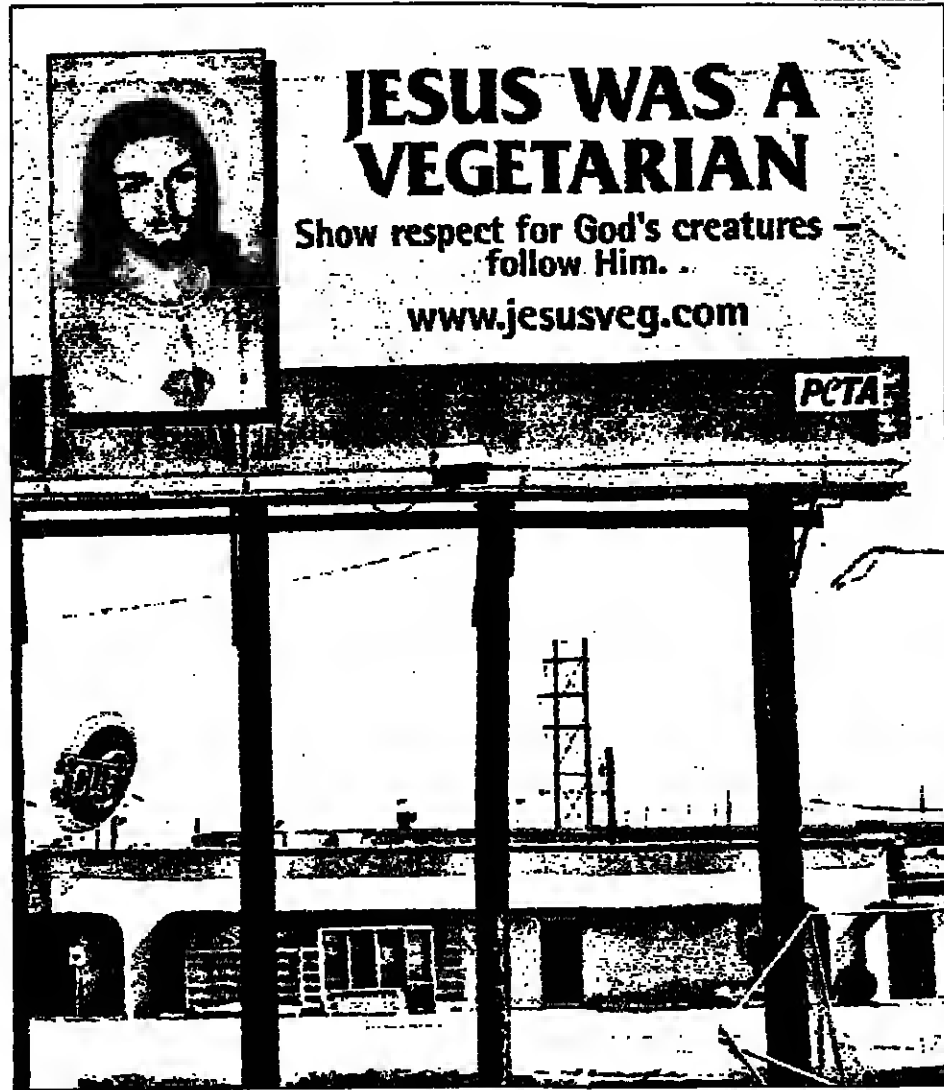
One apparent flaw in this view-

point is Christ's miracle of the loaves and fishes. But Mr Friedrich insists that the early accounts mention only loaves, and the fish were added to the story later by Christians for whom the fish had become a symbol of their faith.

Peta's arguments were described as thin by Michael White, director of religious studies at the University of Texas in Austin. "This is just another cause making bad use of scripture," he said. True, there is no mention in the New Testament of Christ eating poultry, beef or lamb, but silence about the food consumed was no argument one way or the other, he added.

Peta expounds on why Christians should be vegetarians through its website, [www.jesusveg.com](http://www.jesusveg.com). The animal-rights group also bombards religious leaders with letters and pamphlets. Mr Friedrich admitted that an appeal for slaughterhouses to close on Good Friday had produced no results.

From its headquarters in Virginia, Peta also wages fights against clothing made from leather and fur, vivisection, circuses and rodeos. The organisation has 600,000 members, including a London branch.



This billboard in Amarillo, Texas, caused such an outcry it had to be removed

## Church cash crisis hits poor parishes

**Cost of pensions leaves too little for stipends, reports Ruth Gledhill**

THE Church of England has left itself too little cash to pay for its day-to-day ministry in the most deprived areas of the country, the head of the Church Commissioners admitted yesterday.

Little more than a tenth of the cost of clergy pay is now being met from the central funds that are managed by the commissioners. Ten years ago more than half the cost of clergy stipends was met by the commissioners. One difficulty is the cost of pensions, which has doubled in ten years.

A set of radical proposals to help to raise funds for poor parishes has been presented to the new Archbishop's Council. It comes as parishioners have already doubled their giving, taking it to record levels in 1998.

The average donation through covenants and other methods of planned giving has increased from £3.40 a week to £6 in 1997. Total giving, including the collection plate, has risen from an average of £1.94 to £3.15 over that time.

Wealthy dioceses such as Guildford and Chichester have already forgone any contribution from the commissioners to enable the poorer dioceses such as Durham, Liverpool and Sheffield to pay their clergy bill.

One diocese, Portsmouth, received £450,000 from the commissioners in 1992 to pay clergy but last year received only £32,000. Across all 43 dioceses, the commissioners pay an average 12 per cent, or £20 million, of the total stipends bill, compared with £66 million in 1991.

The proposals for fundraising, which have not been

made public yet, were drawn up by the mutual support group set up after the Right Rev David Sheppard, the former Bishop of Liverpool, appealed for a fund to support the neediest parishes.

The Church is thought to be taking note of methods used in parishes that have raised large sums: at St Matthew's church in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, worshippers pledged more than £500,000 in donations towards a refurbishment project in just one day. Worshippers at All Saints in Weston, Bath, pledged a similar sum in one day to refurbish the church hall.

Sir Michael Colman, First Church Estates Commissioner, said: "There are areas where mission is needed but the money does not exist. By paying 100 per cent of past pension costs, we have left ourselves too little."

The problem dates from the 1980s, when the commissioners lost millions of pounds in property speculation. In order to meet the cost of pensions the commissioners have progressively cut the contribution to stipends. Parishes are also having to find an extra £30 million to pay into a new clergy pension fund to offset future pension costs.

□ Mammon is more important than God for the younger generation, according to a survey published yesterday. Only 44 per cent of respondents believed that faith in God would help them to cope better with life's problems.

By contrast half of those aged 16-34 put money higher on the agenda than achieving greater fulfilment. More than 1,000 people took part in the survey for Plough publishers.

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# Labour thinks Scots will give them control

By Jason Allardayce, Scottish Political Reporter

LABOUR believes an outright majority in the Scottish parliament is now within its grasp.

Ministers were "cock-a-hoop" yesterday over a series of devastating poll results for the Scottish National Party, whose leader, Alex Salmond, may find his position in doubt.

Since Mr Salmond condemned the Nato bombings of Kosovo as "unpardonable folly" and pledged to raise income tax to invest in public services, support for the SNP has slumped. Opinion polls in the past few days have seen the SNP trailing Labour by up to 16 points, with Labour set to take up to 62 seats, just three short of a majority in the elections on May 6. The party led Labour by 15 points last summer. One leading SNP figure

claimed: "Winning anything less than 40 seats would be very bad news and Alex would have to carry the can."

However, the SNP received a boost when trade unionists joined its condemnation of Labour's private finance initiatives for schools and hospitals. Union, the largest public services union in Scotland, wants the new parliament to ditch the initiative and has lodged a motion at the Scottish Trades Union Congress annual meeting next week calling for it to be scrapped. The SNP has pledged to set up public service trusts as an alternative.

Union will also call for services such as water and sewerage to be taken from quangos and returned to local, democratic control, again in line

with SNP policy.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, insisted yesterday that private finance initiatives were the way forward, arguing that they would help to build hospitals and fund vital improvements for schools.

In a further blow to Labour, the Kirkcaldy and District Trades Union Council will lodge a conference motion calling for the parliament to use its tax-raising powers to fund investment, echoing the SNP "Penny for Scotland" pledge.

Mr Salmond said: "Like the STUC I condemn the private finance initiatives. I welcome the clarity of the STUC position, just as I deplore the fact that the Labour Party are no longer representing mainstream Scotland."

Earlier Mr Dewar said that education would be at the heart of Labour's drive to win power in Scotland's first parliament for nearly 300 years. He pledged that, if elected, his first act as First Minister would be an "education for a nation" Act.

This would have five key elements: community schools to help to tackle poverty; state-of-the-art information technology for schools; a guarantee of a nursery place for all three and four-year-olds; restoring teachers to their traditional status by proper rewards for the best; and raising standards.

Michael Gove, page 18



Tony Blair ushers Romano Prodi into a London taxi after their meeting at Downing Street yesterday

## EU diplomacy on a shoestring

ROMANO PRODI, the incoming President of the European Commission, showed his indifference to the trappings of high office yesterday by arriving at Downing Street in a London taxi cab.

It was an appropriate gesture by the man who has been brought in to restore the reputation of the Brussels executive, which was badly damaged last month when the entire Commission resigned amid allegations of overspending and mismanagement.

The frugality of Signor Prodi, who had travelled from Rome for talks with the Prime Minister on the future of Europe, was further illustrated by his choice of a £351 one-way business-class British Airways flight from Rome to Gatwick. Most dignitaries would have

Mark Inglefield sees the frugal side of the new Brussels chief

opted for London's premier airport, Heathrow. Instead of being whisked into the city in a limousine, the right of even the humblest commissioner.

Signor Prodi and his two aides paid £10.20 each to travel to Victoria station on the Gatwick Express.

Once there, the former Italian Prime Minister simply wandered past the ticket barrier, passed Roger King and WH Smith and joined the line at the taxi rank. In the afternoon he flew to Bonn for a meeting with Gerhard

Schröder, the German Chancellor, also by business class.

Downing Street denied that Signor Prodi's travel arrangements were a stunt to show the Commission in a good light. "We had no idea he was turning up like this. They did not ask us to meet them," a spokesman said.

Signor Prodi is known for his lack of ostentation and delights in travelling by bicycle when he can. An EU spokesman suggested a further reason for his fiscal prudence: "I don't know who was paying for Signor Prodi. As he is not yet President it would not be us."

The spokesman denied that the former President had been lavish in his expenditure on travel. "Jacques Santer was probably the cheapest. He always drove his car to the airport," he said.

## Blair puts economic record at heart of campaign

By Roland Watson  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR placed the Government's economic record at the heart of Labour's strategy for local, European, Scottish and Welsh elections yesterday.

The Prime Minister made clear that falling interest rates, reduced unemployment and low inflation would form the backdrop to the party's campaigning in the biggest mid-term popularity test any government has faced.

"New Labour is establishing itself as the party of economic competence in Britain today," Mr Blair said at the start of Labour's campaign for next month's domestic polls and the European elections, which follow in June.

Although all sides concede that campaigning will be overshadowed by the war in the Balkans, Mr Blair insisted that he would concentrate on the Government's domestic successes.

Labour has selected five areas that it will highlight under the slogan "Delivered by Labour, opposed by the Tories". These claims, which will appear on cards similar to those used to advertise the party's five key election pledges, are: an extra £40 billion for education and health; the minimum wage; halving youth unemployment; a record rise in child benefit; and bringing in the 10p starting rate for income tax alongside the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years.

Mr Blair, in a clear indication that Labour sees its chief opponents in Scotland and Wales as the SNP and Plaid Cymru, said that such achievements could be put at risk by nationalist victories.

"If the nationalists get in, there will be a heavy price to pay. Divorce is a costly business," he said.

In the local government elections, Labour is defending the high-water mark achieved four years ago, when the 13,000 council seats up for grabs on May 6 were last contested. Then, at the height of Tory unpopularity, the party took 47 per cent of the vote and gained 2,000 seats, four times the previous record.

### SCOTTISH LABOUR'S KEY COMMITMENTS

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- Make it a statutory duty on the Education Minister to meet education standards
- No increase in income tax during the first term of the parliament, and 20,000 modern apprenticeships as a passport to real jobs
- Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency to clamp down on dealers
- Start eight hospital developments and launch the Scottish NHS Direct 24-hour telephone helpline
- Extend nursery provision so that every three-year-old has a place by the end of the first parliament
- Provide a guaranteed after-school place for every child
- Introduce radical land reform to secure public access and community ownership

## Nationalists will seek a stronger Welsh assembly

By Valerie Elliott

WALES should aim for its own tax-raising and law-making powers, Plaid Cymru said yesterday at the launch of its manifesto for the Welsh assembly.

Dafydd Wigley, the Plaid Cymru president, said his party was not calling for an independent Wales, but he believed the assembly should be given primary legislative powers for all responsibilities devolved to it

within four years. "Plaid Cymru has never advocated independence. Our objective has been full self-government for Wales. As we build up our confidence in our country, then I believe people will want to take more powers," he said.

The manifesto outlines a strategy for Welsh MPs at Westminster to use every procedural device, including private Bills, to force through greater powers for the assembly.

The document, *Working for the*

*New Wales*, says that the assembly should take control of the railways and upgrade the line between North and South Wales, as well as establish a Welsh passenger transport authority.

The 30 policy proposals also include the creation of youth development forums around Wales to give young people a greater say in their future. The party suggests that young offenders should serve their punishment, under supervision in

their own community rather than than being detained.

Plaid Cymru wants to ensure that Wales becomes a fully bilingual nation and that it also has a greater voice in Europe by creating an assembly minister charged with that task. The party calls for higher charges for Welsh water exported to England in order to reduce water bills for Welsh households.

Mr Wigley denounced Tony Blair's "middle-England" policies

for Wales. He is determined to exploit the difficulties over the recent Welsh Labour leadership contest, and claimed that a vote for Alun Michael, Labour's candidate for leadership of the Welsh assembly, would lead to a continued Blairite agenda for Wales.

Mr Wigley said that Labour in office had disappointed the people of Wales. "They have in many ways implemented the Conservatives' social and economic policies, which contin-

ue to treat Wales as a colony governed by dictat."

Peter Hain, the Welsh Office Minister, hit back by claiming that Plaid Cymru was still following a separatist agenda that would leave Wales £6 billion in the red. The sum, he said, was the difference between what was being spent by the Government in Wales and what Welsh people paid in taxes. The cost of separation from Britain "would be the biggest divorce settlement in history".

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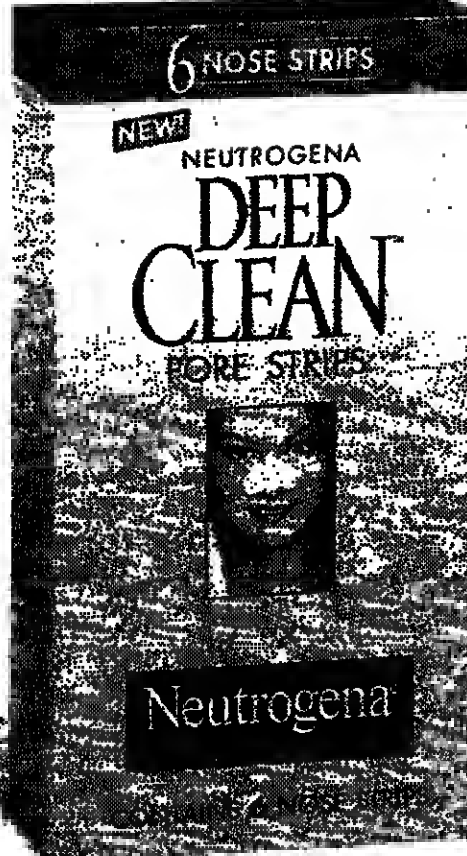
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## Age of consent for young gay men

## Whose side are you on?

## Against equality

Baroness Young

## In favour of equality

NSPCC

Save the Children

Barnardos

NCH Action For Children

British Medical Association

Royal College of Nursing

Family Welfare Association

National Union of Teachers

The House of Commons

and 66% of the British public...

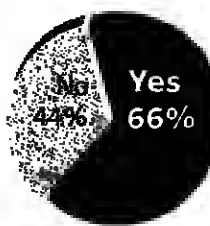
The age of consent for young gay men. Controversial? Not any more.

An equal age of consent at 16 is supported by all the major organisations concerned with the welfare of Britain's young people. By medical opinion. By the House of Commons. And by two thirds of the British public – as now proved in an independent NOP poll\*.

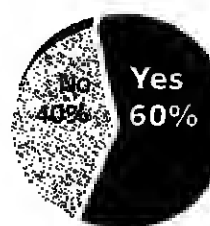
Tonight, the Bill to make equality a reality – and also protect all young people from exploitation by adults in authority – will go before the House of Lords. It is no longer a minority issue. But one minority still stands in the way.

Lady Young and her supporters intend to throw out the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill at Second Reading, a step the Lords have taken only twice since the Second World War. If she succeeds, she will deny all young people the right to equal protection and equal treatment under the law.

Please ask yourself whose side you are on. Ask why Lady Young's supporters are preparing tonight to defy the House of Commons, expert opinion and the majority of the British public. Then write to Stonewall to find out how you can give your support to the continuing fight for equality.



NOP poll question: 'Do you believe that in Britain the age of consent should be equal for everyone or not?'



NOP poll question: 'Do you agree with the Government's proposals [in the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill]?'

\* NOP poll conducted between 11 and 16 February 1999 among 1,957 people representative of all adults in Great Britain

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# Easing illness with animals

Is companionship with pets therapeutic? Anjana Ahuja reports on the use of pets to help seriously ill children, while Emily Wilcox says a feline friend is helping her recovery

Psychologists have spent the past few years proving what cat-owners have known for a lifetime — that looking after a pet can be immensely therapeutic. Playing with and caring for an animal is not only rewarding in its own right, it can also have measurable beneficial effects. As a group, pet-owners are said to have lower blood pressure and lower cholesterol than those without pets, with one study even showing that people who suffer heart attacks are likely to make a swifter recovery if they have a furry companion. Animal lovers manage stress better, are more sociable and even have happier marriages than their creatureless counterparts. The elderly and the very young appear particularly responsive to pets.

The research has spawned a variety of pet therapy schemes — with names such as Pet-a-Pet and Caring Canines — in children's hospitals and nursing homes in America, and Britain is following suit.

The Children in Hospital and Animal Therapy Association (Chata) was founded six years ago by Sandra Stone, a former children's nurse who came to believe in pet power when she joined an animal welfare charity. "About ten years ago a colleague went

with her two beautiful lurcher dogs to visit a home for the elderly in Cambridgeshire," Mrs Stone recalls. "It was just after tea, the residents were sitting round in a semi-circle touching and cuddling the animals and laughing and talking. It was a great way to get people to communicate."

"At one end, though, was a very quiet chap who, the nurses told us, never spoke to anybody. I asked him if he would like to say hello to the dogs. He had never spoken before but as soon as he touched the animals, he started pouring out all these emotions. Some of the staff were in tears. It was a very moving moment. That's when I thought that this could work for children."

Mrs Stone, who runs Chata with her husband Ronnie, now works mainly with terminally ill children in London hospitals, including Guy's in South London and Chase Farm in North London. Volunteers must hold either a medical qualification (many are nurses and doctors) or be qualified to work with children (such as teachers or social workers).

Chata worked on a pilot study with doctors at Chase Farm to ascertain whether animal therapy could relieve pain, as some patients have claimed. Sixty children who



Pet theory: infants are thought to gain much from the unconditional love proffered by a pet and some people believe that it helps them to cope better with post-surgery stress

underwent ear and nose surgery had access to animals after surgery: 60 did not. Pain was assessed on three scales: how the children felt, how the parents felt their child had coped, and the level of painkilling drugs used.

The results were inconclusive, with a negligible difference between the two groups. But Dr Ian Pollock, the paediatrician at Chase Farm who co-ordinated the study, believes the approach is valuable nonetheless. "The impression we got was that children who had animal therapy did better but that was not borne out by the figures. I think that was more to do with the design of the pilot study, though. We probably used the wrong patient group because the operations are not that painful."

"The other problem is that patients and parents tend to be satisfied with whatever we do. We may try another study on children who have had more serious operations. Having said that, I do believe the benefits are real, and it clearly helps children with problems such as depression. It distracts them and helps them to come out of themselves."

Mrs Stone says that children in comas have responded to rabbits, guinea-pigs and dogs. She attributes the success of the scheme to the fact that an animal asks nothing of a child but love.

"It's unconditional, non-judgmental," she says. "If you are a sick child, people always want something from you: the nurse pressing you to take your drugs, a teacher asking for schoolwork. An animal is a visitor that doesn't expect anything. And it gives the child the chance to be a carer. They can feed the dog or guinea-pig. It's a powerful therapy."

Her optimism is inevitably tempered by the sadness that comes with working with ill children. "But we can also be strong," she says, "because we know that we have done our best to raise their self-esteem and improve their quality of life for as long as possible."

In September at Guy's, Chata will start a study similar to that conducted at Chase Farm. Dr Melinda Edwards, a psychologist, will assist.

● Chata, 87 Longland Drive, London N20 8PN; telephone 0181-445 7833.

## A cat that cures despair

I was told that I had chronic fatigue syndrome in 1995 when I was 17. I continued to deteriorate until the summer of 1996, when my symptoms became rapidly severe. My eyes became so sensitive that daylight gave me migraines, and I had to have duvets pinned over the white cotton curtains in my bedroom. The discomfort in my neck, back and legs became real pain and then one day my legs could no longer support me. Although I longed to run away, I could not even walk. I was scared and deeply shocked that my body had become my enemy.

In October 1996 I was admitted to BUPA Hartwood Hospital in Essex, where Lindsey Barker, an occupational therapist, taught me a management programme to control the illness. Very gently we coerced my body into recovery mode. I sat out of bed 15 minutes a day, had the curtains open for ten minutes at a time and read for one minute by forcing my aching eyes along the print. Since I left hospital in December 1996, I have made slow, stubborn progress at home.

Last September I was well enough to start A-level lessons at the Fine Arts College in Belsize Park. As my mobility is still limited, I use the wheelchair in airports and theatres, while at home I depend on a stairlift to get about the house.

Whereas my unhappiness used to be passive, my desire to be well is now so strong that it is difficult for me to live with. Aware of my increasing impatience and frustration, my parents decided to give me a love object: a kitten.

She arrived from the RSPCA rescue centre in a big, white box. My father opened it and inside was a skinny tabby kitten who met my gaze with treacherous eyes and started to purr huskily as soon as I scooped her up. I named her Lola because she's a beautiful but wild little wail.

Although I grew up with loveable dogs, I stayed sceptical about domestic animals and I thought pets were a poor



Healthy bond: Emily Wilcox and Lola

substitute for people. Now, to my surprise, my bond with this cat is as close as a human friendship.

According to my Mum, Lola's arrival was destiny because the cat and I understand each other so well. My father is recovering from major heart surgery and I hope that he, too, will benefit from kitten therapy. He is Lola's sugar daddy — she gets her way by being cute and affectionate. In contrast, Mum is convinced that the kitten hates her and since Lola's arrival, when she drew blood, remains aloof. Nevertheless, Mum looks on triumphantly as Lola and I grow stronger.

I am a control freak about sticking to my management programme because it is my only guarantee of recovery. Only Lola dares to disturb my rest, and she does not care when I am too tired to play or clean out her litter tray. My health is

not the issue; if Lola wants to play, we play.

So I crawl round the sitting room letting Lola stalk me and pounce like a small cheetah on the Serengeti. Her toys are only interesting if she has to sneak up and steal them from me. I take her exploring around the house, trying to keep up when she sprints ahead, then searching for her when she vanishes. Her movements are deft and lithe: when I watch her, it is obvious that a healthy body is a subtle piece of engineering. I am waiting for my own body to heal itself so that I can learn to move as effortlessly as Lola. I am, though, so distracted by looking after her that I bustle around the house as freely as a healthy girl. I forget to measure and limit my walking. Playing with Lola stimulates my dexterity and co-ordination. My friends have also noticed how much I giggle these days.

When I need to nap, Lola clambers over me until she is comfortable, yawns, then purrs noisily. Her contentment is irresistible. Lola's small, soft body is unexpectedly heavy and soothing. I like the feel of her fur on my skin. I still resent having to rest, but with her company the time passes more quickly.

While I have been ill, I have soaked up love and attention from my family. Now, I have the chance to care for something more fragile than myself. This takes me a step closer to regaining independence.

I know that owning a kitten is not a cure for chronic fatigue syndrome: recovery takes time and effort. However, happiness makes the struggle much easier and, day by day, I can sense the illness receding. If I have stuck to a familiar management programme out of habit and fear of the unknown, Lola has brought spontaneity into my life. By the time she is old enough to prowls alone outside, I hope to be a strong young woman, able to do a bit of prowling myself.

EMILY WILCOX

## Identifying the psychopath

Many of the doctors who watched Edward Stourton's account on TV of Sean Sellers' remorseless killing, first of a checkout man in a supermarket, and later his own mother and stepfather, will have little doubt that his behaviour indicated an antisocial personality disorder, a behavioural pattern that used to be termed psychopathic.

Sellers planned the murders meticulously, he showed no regrets afterwards, and in the six months between the two incidents, partied and enjoyed himself. The grim fact was that Sellers was only 16.

Although psychopathy is not diagnosed until a patient is 18, it is usual for anyone with an antisocial personality disorder to show marked signs of aberrant behaviour before they are 15 and to have usually displayed such troubles as truancy, cruelty to animals, use of weapons in fights, sexual assault and lying and stealing. Such people are emotionally blunted; they defy authority and have a total lack of sensitivity.

Thirteen years after being found guilty of murder, and spending nearly half his life fighting appeals and running a Christian mission from his death cell, Sellers was executed by two injections, after he had been anaesthetised with a shot of sodium thiopental.

Medical and legal interest in the case was heightened by the final appeal of Sellers's lawyers, which was based on new psychiatric evidence purporting to show that he suffered from a Jekyll and Hyde personality, sometimes previously known as "multiple personality disorder", now described as "dissociative identity

### MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

ty disorder". It is a reasonable assumption that this new tenuous diagnosis is likely to be heard increasingly in courts.

The 1992 16th edition of *Merkel's Manual*, the bestselling American medical textbook, devotes six lines to multiple personality disorders, whereas the 17th edition, launched in London this month, has five columns on the condition.

Dissociative identity disorder is defined as a condition in which two or more identities, or personalities, at different times take over a person's behaviour. To describe Jekyll and Hyde's divergent personality as schizophrenia is a common solecism. Psychiatrists who frequently diagnose dissociative identity disorder say that what is known by one per-

son's personality may not be known by their other identity. These different personalities may interact in varying ways and the whole mishmash of personality is not only confusing for the patient and their relations, but also to lawyers as they try to sort out which of the accused personalities did what.

Psychiatrists who are firm believers in the new diagnostic criteria suggest that 3 to 4 per cent of all psychiatric in-patients display symptoms of the disease. The cynics hold that the symptoms professed by the patient are the result of a combination of an over-enthusiastic physician treating a suggestible patient. It is interesting that patients alleged to have the disorder are known to be easily hypnotised.

The protagonists of the diagnosis claim that the maturation process in a child which gives them a sense of identity can be stunted by lack of compassion, abuse and absence of understanding in childhood. In a vulnerable child, they claim, this deprivation may

induce an identity crisis. The symptoms of associative identity disorder are apparently protean. The condition is said to be associated with a high incidence of self-harm and suicide; it can mimic most of the personality disorders, including antisocial personality disorder; it may be confused with schizophrenia, mania, depression (nearly all the alleged patients are depressed). Patients may hear voices, but whether this is a typical delusion or, as they maintain, their personalities talking to one another, is uncertain. Most also suffer the classic symptoms of amnesia, depersonalisation and derealisation.

When he was interviewed, Sellers's behaviour was typical of the psychopath — contrition was not in his vocabulary. He was egocentric, manipulative, plausible, charming, verbally skilful and overdid eye contact, like many of the more dangerous criminals I met in my spell as a part-time police surgeon. Little wonder that Stourton found him clever, charismatic and dangerous.

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# A night of food, sex and egos

Once a year Europe's top chefs celebrate their Michelin awards. Grace Bradberry meets the chefs with stars in their eyes

It's 11.30 on Sunday night at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and Giorgio Locatelli, the chef of Zafferano, has Raymond Blanc, the proprietor of Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, caught in a bear-hug. "My glasses!" says Blanc, extricating himself.

Behind them a young French chef twirls his wife, clad in spangly disco pants, between the tables. "Don't worry," the wife of one chef had reassured me when I remarked that the early evening atmosphere seemed subdued. "Come midnight, they'll be standing on tables and taking their clothes off." It didn't get quite that far but there was something touchingly gauche about the party spirit when the evening got into its stride. Top chefs don't get out much — and you could tell.

The event which sparked the exuberance is the Champagne Mumm Gala des étoiles de la gastronomie, the annual dinner in honour of Michelin-star chefs. If Locatelli was ebullient, then no wonder: he had just accepted his first Michelin star, an award he never expected because he once threw out the guide's inspectors.

"It was four years ago," he recalls, smiling ruefully. "I'd had a Red M — now called a Bib Gourmand — for value-for-money, but they took it away because I put my £25 menu up to £25.50. I'm in Belgravia, I pay £85,000 a year rent. They should have taken that into account." When two men introduced themselves as Michelin inspectors, Locatelli flipped. "I said, 'your way of judging things is not mine!'"

He is not the only English chef to have had doubts about the mysterious rumblings of the Michelin Men. Some (particularly those without stars) claim that the guide is outmoded, with too heavy a bias towards complex French cooking and too little appreciation of the kind of ethnic and fusion food that dominates the British restaurant scene. Ultimately, however, everyone wants at least one Michelin star, and some won't be happy unless they have three.

This year no British chef joined the three-star elite. Raymond Blanc stayed at two stars, as did Gordon Ramsay:

La Tante Claire lost its third star, while the Waterside Inn at Bray-on-Thames, Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane, and The Oak Room Marco Pierre White, retained theirs. The only new three-star chef was a Frenchman, Michel Bras, based in Laguiole.

Cooking for Michelin stars can become an obsession. Inspectors can pay any number of visits, but will often announce themselves only on one occasion in order to inspect the kitchen. Consistent excellence is required and a single "off-night" can cost a star. Though the award is aimed at consumers, the judges are in no way ordinary punters. Full-time employees of Michelin, they all have an HND or degree in hotel management, at least six years' experience in the industry, and a strong technical understanding of the craft of cooking.

Locatelli, however, doubts that he would have been recognised a few years back. "I didn't do foie gras. I do white truffles when it's the season. We never served canapés. Those used to be the requirements."

Despite the Knightsbridge location, Locatelli does not believe in such elitism. "Food is a leveller," he says. "There are three things that everyone must do: food is one, sex is another — if you want to have children — and defecation is the third. Those things make us all the same."

Which brings us to the subject of toilet paper. For some time now disaffected chefs have muttered that Michelin pays too much attention to extraneous details such as tablecloths and the number of loos. "All that stuff about ten-ply toilet roll is crap," Gordon Ramsay assured me last week. "It's all about the food."

Ramsay was the Banquet's Ghost of Sunday night's dinner. Since his riveting performance in a fly-on-the-wall documentary — Ramsay made Captain Bligh look a benevolent taskmaster — he has made himself scarce. It's a shame because he would have appreciated the "woodland spirit" still-walkers who formed the entertainment. As viewers of the Channel 4 documentary will know, Ramsay blew a gasket when still-walkers dressed as insects held up a banquet that



Starring roles: Main picture: Giorgio Locatelli. Above: Michael Caines (left) and Germain Schwab, who both have two stars. Left: the Michelin award-winners take a bow. Below: Raymond Blanc (top centre) pats Giorgio Locatelli on the head. Richard Corrigan on his left. Bottom left to right: Paul Merrett, Tessa Bramley and Max Rendland



he was preparing at Versailles. "We've got to wait for the cockroach!" he blasted.

Ramsay makes no secret that he would like a third star — "As a footballer I wanted to play at Wembley Stadium, as a chef I want that third star." But even he points out that cooking for stars is a dangerous game. "It's 24 hours of glory every year and after that it's back to brass tacks," he says.

Among the 13 chefs collecting their first stars was Paul Merrett, the head chef at Interlude, on Charlotte Street — until it closed in October. The entire staff was laid off overnight when the owner decided to sell up. A quiet 30-year-old in a loud waistcoat, Merrett, and

his sous-chef Anton Mangano, are now working towards a new restaurant, Site, near Leicester Square. "We didn't close because we were cooking to Michelin standards," Merrett points out. In fact, he says, they were largely cooking "for our own egos — we would send back anything that wasn't perfect."

Germain Schwab, the owner and head chef at Winteringham Fields in North Lincolnshire, said that his second star had already made a difference. "We're more of a destination now," says Schwab. Situated near Scunthorpe, Winteringham Fields depends on people agreeing that the restaurant is "worth a detour".

Robert Clayton, the chef of Bath Priory, a new one-star winner, is from this area himself. "People in Cleethorpes [his home town] will buy a BMW but they won't spend money at a restaurant," he says. In general, however, he believes the British attitude towards food and the quality of our restaurants is improving.

"I'm sure we could have as many people up there as the French," he says, gesturing at the stage, where 33 French chefs have just collected their one-star awards, and another nine have gained two stars. By contrast, the British gained 13 one-star awards, and another two chefs were recognised with two stars.

The second two-star winner is Michael Caines, head chef of Gidleigh Park, Chagford. Caines, who grew up in Exeter, and is still only 30. His achievement is more remarkable when you consider that he has a prosthetic right arm after a car accident. Only one of the British winners was a woman: Tessa Bramley of The Old Vicarage, near Sheffield, a former housewife who is self-taught.

Also self-taught is Raymond Blanc, of Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons, near Oxford. Despite missing out on a third star, he believes the inspection process is fair — "I was inspected eight times, and they said six times the food was three star and

twice it wasn't." He has now invested £7 million on restructuring so that the private dining room and the restaurant have separate kitchens.

Strictly speaking, the grandeur of an establishment doesn't matter to the inspectors. "Michelin says it's all about the food," says Blanc. "I doubt it very strongly. They gave me one star when I was 27 and running a tiny little place with a corrugated iron roof over the kitchen." But for three stars he believes something more is required: "Time shouldn't exist."

Nor should bullying. Blanc was, he says, horrified by Ramsay's behaviour in the kitchen. "When you have a creative

power within yourself which you then give to a dish, it's a very painful thing to see one of your staff unintentionally murder that dish. But you have to put your fist in your pocket. I ask to see staff later, so I have time to reflect."

Who knows what the scene was like in the kitchens on Sunday as James Robins of Mustard Catering attempted to please Europe's top chefs. "Hmmm," said one chef, tasting the herb and sole mousseline that accompanied the red mullet. "The flavour is too strong for the fish." Still, Robins could take comfort in one thing — there were no Michelin inspectors present. They cannot afford to be recognised.

## I've seen the future and it works . . . differently

Visitors to the Millennium Dome will be invited to explore an area that will focus on how our working lives are likely to change. On entering, they will see the depressing spectacle of overcrowded commuter trains and traffic jams, while a huge clock loudly ticks away the working hours. Pink Floyd-style, Next comes an area of transition, in which shredded-paper orders and clocking-in cards will be tipped into giant plastic sacks — symbolically turning off the old ways. The workers of the future, so it goes, will have greater control over every aspect of their lives.

The Work Zone is sponsored by Manpower, the recruitment company which is seen by some as a template for future working practices. Manpower and others like it will take on the trappings of a permanent employer, providing benefits such as health-care, pensions and holiday pay for its staff. Its temps will rotate from job to job, but look to Manpower as their permanent home, enjoying the

Temp agencies look set to become the only permanent employers for many people, says Jon Ashworth

same rights as employees. The "death of the office" has been exaggerated. By now we should all be telecommuting from home, communicating by e-mail, telephone and videophone. Many people do work from home, but the old ways are proving resistant. Instead, the change is coming in the way that people are employed. Redundancies have claimed huge swaths of middle managers and back-office staff, forcing them to adapt to a changing market. Each new advance in technology means fewer jobs. Managers have reinvented themselves as consultants, while secretaries and clerical workers have looked to companies such as Manpower.

Richard Pearson, director of the Institute for Employment Studies, an independent research institute, says: "A lot

of people are choosing not to have a traditional job. They work part-time, weekends and evenings to suit their lifestyle. If you had read the futurology articles of the past decade, we should all now be working from home. But we are not. We need to meet people. There will be a big core of people working traditionally in 10 to 20 years' time."

Amin Rajan, chief executive of the Centre for Research in Employment and Technology in Europe, an independent "think-tank", believes that the office will survive because human beings need social contact. He thinks that banks, accountants and law firms will remain much as they are because they need to be close to clients. Other companies may adopt a "club" approach, in which offices will become staging posts. A manager due in London for a meeting, for instance, would "rent" a desk for the day.

British Airways adopted such a model for its new head office at Waterside, near Heathrow. Hot-desking frees up space, while remote working keeps employees in touch via laptop computer and e-mail. Andersen Consulting uses a similar system at its offices in Paris. This is the closest that Professor Rajan thinks we will get to telecommuting, with staff writing up reports at home or while travelling. A further variant

on the workplace will come as banks and others outsource functions such as cheque-processing and invoice-issuing, which require large numbers of people. It is far cheaper to locate such operations in rural areas where labour is cheap and office rents are low.

A good example is the telephone call centres that have mushroomed in the UK in recent years. Many of them are staffed entirely by contractees in management and employees. Manpower, for one, has about 11,000 people working in UK call centres each day.

Roger Steare, a City recruitment consultant, thinks that the workplace of the future will be characterised by three groups: senior management, a middle tier of freelance consultants or "hired guns", and a pool of staff on short-term contracts handling back-office and secretarial functions.

Steare says: "I don't see that the workplace will necessarily look very different, but it will feel different because people will have more control over their working lives. My feeling is that quality of life will become more important."

That is the impression that awaits visitors to the Dome. Those who run the gauntlet of ticking clocks and shredded paper will find themselves in a room with six huge work tables designed to be "played" by up to 14 people at a time. They can play or watch others and learn about the skills most valued by employers. And if this sounds like some ghastly school lesson, that's because it probably is.

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# Don't blame us, we're all for the Union

Labour is singing some very traditional songs in this election

The nation with the highest rate of heart disease in Europe may not seem the natural home of self-discipline. But Scotland is exhibiting a curious, and mature, restraint at the moment. The Scots seem to want to have their cake, and not eat it. When I was growing up in Scotland during the Eighties, it seemed as though the entire nation was adolescent. Every problem, from the closure of shipyards to the failures of the national football team, was someone else's fault. Usually Margaret Thatcher's. And just as every adolescent problem could be solved only by getting out from under mum's skirts, so Scotland could be happy only if she had a parliament.

Now, however, that we are to have our own parliament, we seem curiously shy of making the most of it. The parents have left us with the key, our mates are at the door with the six-packs of McEwan's Export, but we're content to sit in our bedroom waiting patiently for the paternal Granada to return. They may have left the Macallan on the sideboard but, thank you very much, I'll stick to the Irn Bru.

The campaign for the new Scottish parliament is, formally, a week old. It is the culmination of a struggle which is, like me, a tad over 30 years old. During those 30 years Scotland has, allegedly, grown ever more restless in the Union. And yet recently the best tunes have all been Unionist. They might have been singing *Flower of Scotland* in the Stade de France on Saturday last. *Britannia* has secured the applause on the hustings, certainly, with Gordon Brown incorporating the old riddle from *Hey, Big Spender*, but the old tune is unmistakably underneath.

Since the campaign's formal beginning, the case, and the advocates, for greater autonomy have proved unconvincing, while the party most prominent in the Union's defence has flourished. This election was supposed to be a showcase for the Scottish National Party's independence drive. But the SNP seems to have adopted the same policy as the Ancient Egyptians towards that which it values most — burial. In its list of ten priorities its historic goal of independence came tenth, below abolishing the toll for the Skye Bridge.

Call me romantic, but I don't think George Washington would have got very far if he'd made crossing the Delaware toll-free a higher priority than American independence in his 1776 campaign.

The downgrading of independence reflects a fundamental weakness. The nationalists fear that support for independence is not yet sufficient to propel them into power. And so, in order to broaden their appeal, the SNP has tried to be more socialist than nationalist. Alex Salmond's denunciation of the Nato bombing campaign and advocacy of higher income tax in Scotland is an attempt to accentuate the red in the Lion Rampant.

But the Scots are evidently unimpressed. After the SNP

explained what goodies an extra penny on income tax might bring, the polls showed it trailing well behind low-tax Labour. Not only do Scots not want independence, it appears, they scarcely want their parliament to show any independence. The cake stays pristine, just as Tony baked it.

There is, of course, a constituency for higher public expenditure. But it expects Westminster to provide, just as Liverpool and Newcastle do. The Labour Party launched its manifesto for the Scottish parliament yesterday. It was an extravagant declaration of well-dependence. On the Treasury. There would be four computers for every classroom, eight new hospitals, and an NHS hotline. All paid for by Westminster. And none of it requiring a Scottish parliament to deliver.

Labour's campaign is being driven by two men who are not even standing for the parliament. The strategy is directed by Gordon Brown, and the tactics decided by his protégé, the Westminster MP Douglas Alexander. Mr Alexander entered the Commons in the full knowledge that a Scottish parliament would be along in a tick, but he nevertheless took the high road south. His judgment that Westminster really respect is borne out by the popularity of the campaign he is currently running.

As part of it, Mr Brown will deliver his major ideological speech of the election this Thursday. At the London School of Economics. Its title? *New Britain*. Having spent his entire adult political career campaigning for a Scottish parliament, he is now, we are informed, trying "to make Britishness fashionable".

Has anyone told Margaret Thatcher? Has anyone told Gerry Adams? Indeed, has anyone told John Smith's heirs? The late Labour Party leader famously described his failed Devolution Act as "unfinished business". But now that the legislation has been passed, we're back to business as usual.

With business in the driving seat. Last Thursday the Labour Party was delighted to flourish an advertisement, paid for by industry, which denounced SNP tax plans. The new heroes of the people's party included the chairman of Rangers Football Club, the last institution outside the British Legion where working-class men gather to sing *Land of Hope and Glory*, and the entrepreneur Ivor Tienbrun. When asked what the Scottish parliament could do to help business, Mr Tienbrun once commented, "mass suicide on the first day". It seems as though Mr Tienbrun may have got his wish early. The Labour Party appears to have put its Scottish parliamentarians to sleep even before they get to Holyrood. Which leaves this Unionist asking one question. If all, it appears, Scotland ever wanted was to be run by Labour politicians from Westminster, then why did we ever embark on creating a seraglio in Edinburgh for 129 eunuchs?

But the Scots are evidently unimpressed. After the SNP



Michael Gove

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## An inspector falls

It is time for Blunkett to stop sneering at concerns about Chris Woodhead

For too many nights the dog has refrained from barking. This curious incident, as Sherlock would put it, has gone on long enough, and it is time to tell the strange tale of the Chief Inspector of Schools, his ex-wife, and the sixth-former. If the world is not yet prepared, tough. The business has been muted for too long and — with David Blunkett's latest sneer about "vile" allegations, there is getting to be something very dislikeable about it. Haul it out into the open air, I say. Shake it out, let's have a proper look at it.

The matter is, of course, already public but so faint is the bark of the media dog that you may have missed it. Here, in brief, are the least disputed facts. It begins with a piece of proposed law: a hasty stop to those uneasy about the lowering of the age of homosexual consent. The Government is planning to make imprisonable offences of all sexual affairs between teachers and pupils, even 18-year-olds. Such affairs are already sacking offences in most schools. In the light of this, in January Chief Inspector Chris Woodhead was asked a conference question to which he rashly (but honestly) replied that sometimes such affairs could turn out to be "educative and experiential".

It was one of the rare moments when this standard-bearer of the New Strictness revealed his true colours as a child of '68. Back then, we all sang Bob Dylan songs and believed like mad that your romantic misjudgments were what made you, like, grow. Perhaps, in failing to utter a standard-issue blast of moral indignation, Mr Woodhead was chivalrously trying not to betray the memory of what was, in the end, his long partnership with a former pupil called Amanda Johnston, whom he first met as a sixth-former at Gordan School, near Bristol, in the 1970s (note that neutral word "met" — it is important).

But his words caught his former wife on the raw. In a long article for a Sunday paper, Mrs Cathy Woodhead said that despite his insistence that the affair began years later, it was to her sure knowledge well under way while the girl was in the sixth form and she, the teacher's wife, had a young baby. "While he was away being educative and experiential," observes Cathy Woodhead in that lethally witty way pioneered by Mrs Margaret Cook, "I was at home with a 15-month-old baby." She further says that he even

suggested that his girlfriend move in with them to help with the baby (look, kids, this was 1975. Believe me, the idea would sound less crazy if you, too, had been young in the age of the flared brocade trouser and sheepskin waistcoat).

Mr Woodhead sticks to his own story — which he and Miss Johnston have both legally sworn to — that the affair began later. But a group of old colleagues have told various newspapers that Mrs Woodhead's story matches their own recollections.

So who is telling the truth? In the weeks since the damning article was published, nothing has happened: nothing official, at least, although the teachers' unions have tried to make a stink and a largely ignored motion was tabled in the Commons. The DfEE is said to be "looking" at documents sent in by Mrs Woodhead, and *The Observer* reported yesterday that a handwritten note in the divorce papers has her husband admitting adultery with a lady whose name he would not disclose "for professional reasons".

However, the Education Secretary continues to say that the allegations — implicitly including Mrs Woodhead's — are "vile". Mr Blunkett sneers: "This seems to be degenerating into a war of an ex-wife getting revenge. It is getting nastier and nastier and less relevant to anything to do with his employment in government. None of it has proved that he lied and none of it has affected his current job. What happened in the 1970s is his own business."

Ah, but it isn't, Mr Blunkett. It was his wife's business, too; and while nobody in their senses would ever advise a woman to reclaim her history in public after so long, she was within her rights to do so. And the Government is not within its

rights to dismiss her as a nasty liar. Her motive need not be revenge nor (as I fear some pro-Woodhead spinners are hinting) some pathetic menopausal crisis. It could just as well be a sense of monstrous injustice: of fury at being cavalierly dismissed as a witness to a painful, well-remembered crisis in her own life. She is asking for an investigation: in her place, frankly, I would not stir up trouble this late in the day, but if she wants to then it is her right to do so. Truth is truth.

And establishing the truth does matter to the Chief Inspector's professional credibility, especially when sworn statements are being contradicted. Any teacher knows that once the kids start giggling about Sir's private life, respect flies out of the classroom window.

Mr Woodhead may not speak out on morals as a rule (this is part of his defence) but he is a national Sir, a representative of all that is orderly and professional in education. He might easily have regained respect after an ill-advised ancient affair, but respect gets harder to maintain when he is accused of rewriting history to suit himself, without regard for the other players. I rather hope he is not guilty: I like the man, and he works hard, and if his critics damn him as a new Labour courtier, so what? It appears to be the only way to hold public offices down these days. But now the question has been raised, it must be answered.

Yet the Government is defensive and the media muted. Granted, the allegations came at a time when the press was lying gorged and exhausted after hounding out Geoffrey Robinson, Peter Mandelson and Glenn Hoddle in quick succession. There is something else at work, too: a sense that the Government will stand by Woodhead in the face of

any evidence short of mass-murder, and that it is obscurely unsafe for editors and broadcasters to make a noise.

Some, in government and media alike, excuse this by saying we should not encourage bitter and unbalanced vindictiveness. That is not fair to Mrs Woodhead, who is a distinguished mountaineer and not mad at all. Others say that it is part of a conspiracy by teachers to oust Mr Woodhead because he says such unkind things about them and sends in Ofsted teams to upset people. One close Government apologist said firmly to me, when I was marvelling at the lack of fallout after the ex-wife's article and wondering whether to write this: "Look, we can't afford to let something like this bring down Woodhead. He's the only hope for education in this country."

So I brooded about that for a while, and decided that it was even sicker than the original allegations. One of the marks of a healthy system — educational, governmental, administrative — is that nobody is indispensable, even the boss. If we have really got to a situation where nobody speaks for Ofsted except Chris Woodhead, where nobody's views matter but his and nobody but him can improve school standards — why, we are in a bad way, and something really must be done.

It is easy enough to see why new Labour, anxious to reassure us about its commitment to education, decided to keep Chris Woodhead as a talisman of good faith. But that totemic power should be fading. We know that David Blunkett has become as fussy and prescriptive a martinet as any Tory education reformer, and that the flow of literacy-hour packs and guides to chanting times-tables will not cease in the foreseeable future, with or without Chris Woodhead.

So Mr Blunkett should be even-handed and open, stop flailing his fists in passionate defence of the Chief Inspector, and call in evidence rather than just reluctantly flicking through whatever the irate former wife sends in. He owes it to teachers, parents and children to establish the truth.

After all, whatever it is, he has the power to wipe the slate for Mr Woodhead if he wants to.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Libby Purves

## 'Life is messier than fiction. We should beware of policy based on good guys beating bigger bad guys in Kosovo and living happily ever after'

Vanora Bennett

Nato might not know what to do after Kosovo airstrikes, but Frederick Forsyth has the answer. Instead of ground troops, the author wants the West to "release the dogs of war" and arm the Kosovo Liberation Army. His pleading in weekend papers follows weeks of KLA appeals for Nato weapons. The arrangement would benefit both sides, the argument goes. Nato would boost the KLA by implicitly recognising its independence claims, while fighters who know the terrain could act as proxy Nato "ground troops".

Given Nato's queasiness a few weeks ago at the possibility of being seen as the KLA's "air force" — and the fact that a few months ago the West dismissed the KLA as terrorists — this idea has won a surprising amount of attention. Supporters include Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jimmy Carter's one-time National Security

Adviser. Two US senators have drafted legislation which, if passed, would allow America to spend \$25 million on the rebels. Their sympathy shows how the suffering of Kosovan civilians has coloured the West's perception in recent weeks. It also shows Nato's desperation — faced with the inability of Kosovans to protect themselves on the ground and Nato's inability to protect them from the skies. It would appear to hit the Serbs without risking Nato lives.

Forsyth's solution is as well-plotted as a thriller. But life is messier than fiction. We should beware of policy based on good guys beating bigger bad guys and living happily ever after.

Arming the KLA on the basis that an enemy's enemy is a friend would be folly. Little is known about the KLA, but much is suspected. International police link its members with organised

crime, especially heroin trafficking and gun-running. In 1997, when neighbouring Albania disintegrated, so many guns were stolen from army depots that the black market price dropped to £10 a Kalashnikov. The KLA has been stocking up.

American officials suggest that the KLA has ties to Islamic groups. If so, arming it might encourage fundamentalists from Iran, Iraq, or Afghanistan to join the fight, possibly radicalising Muslim Albanians. Providing weapons would give Russia, already sympathetic to Belgrade, an excuse to arm the Serbs in Orthodox Christian retaliation.

There are longer-term risks in funding guerrillas, as America's painful memories of Afghanistan prove. The Mujahidin were supported by Washington in the 1980s

to counter the Soviet Army. But later they turned US weapons on each other. Since the sternly Islamic Taliban took over in 1996, Afghanistan has infuriated Washington by sheltering Osama bin Laden, a Saudi businessman allegedly behind the bombings of US embassies in Africa last year. America can do without any more proxy conflicts backing.

There is every reason to believe that the KLA, if armed by Nato and subsequently successful in battle, would also tear itself apart. It lacks a coherent ideology beyond opposition to Belgrade: it includes Maoists, Muslims and macho guerrillas. Its dramatic appearance last year, in a rebellion later smashed by Serbian forces, has overshadowed Kos-

ovo's non-violent nationalists, whose veteran leader, Ibrahim Rugova, is now mocked by the KLA as a naive Gandhi. KLA bosses would be unlikely to promote Western-style democratic pluralism.

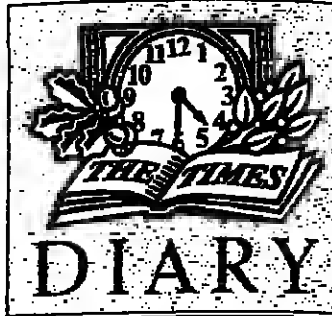
The KLA gained some respectability last month by agreeing to a three-year pause in its fight for independence. The brutal purging which followed has killed that deal, since no one could now expect it to live under Serbian suzerainty. But there has been no talk, yet, of what should be substituted. Since the most West aimed for when first endorsing airstrikes was to make Kosovo a Nato-run protectorate, any move towards supporting independence, and redrawing frontiers, would need to be publicly discussed first.

The most practical reason not to arm the KLA stems not from what it is, but what it is not — militarily

effective. Literary romantics such as Forsyth should bear in mind that the dogs of this war are ill-trained puppies. Although KLA ranks are swelling with desperate Kosovans bent on revenge for the destruction of their lives, the rag-tag army is not big. Before the latest horrors, it numbered only between 6,000 and 10,000 men. Their commitment is undoubted but they are too few, and too chaotic, to prevail.

Since the bombing began, their attempts to defend civilians and hold territory have mostly been defeated by Serbians. Boosting their effectiveness would take months of training. Arming them now is, as one Western military expert puts it, "a proposal that makes us feel good but has absolutely no effect on the situation on the ground". These are dogs best left muzzled.

vanora.bennett@the-times.co.uk



## Turf wars

SIR JOCELYN STEVENS wants to dig up Queen Victoria's most cherished garden. The chairman of English Heritage is about to announce that he plans to spend £15 million uprooting ancient landscapes at ten properties run by the body and replace them with contemporary designs.

Osborne House, Victoria's holiday home on the Isle of Wight, is believed to top the list, which includes Kent's Bayham Abbey and Worcester's Witley Court. "Good heavens," exclaimed Lord St John of Fawsley when I called him about the imminent announcement. "When one has established gardens of their period, the last thing one should do is dig them up."

But Stephen Bayley, the design guru, thought it an excellent idea: "It's Sir J's last hurrah before he leaves English Heritage. This should be about preserving the best of the past without freezing it at some fanciful historical moment."

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS has signed a £200,000 deal to write his memoirs. With a little help from Les Scott, the next-door neighbour, the former England international (below) will recall historic moments from his career, such as playing in his first Football League match and being forced to salute Hitler in 1938. Matthews, who once earned £12 a week, will also be sharing his thoughts on today's far better remunerated players.



A PLOT is afoot to depose the Queen in Scotland. Labour and SNP candidates to the new assembly — republican almost to a man — are investigating how they can drop the path of allegiance to Her Majesty after the elections.

While anti-monarchists at Westminster such as Tony Banks have to make do with crossing their fingers behind their back, prospective parliamentarians north of the border hope to circumvent the 1998 Scotland Act, which mandates the oath, by changing the assembly's standing orders.

Andrew Puddhephatt, the constitutional reformer, has already offered to devise a new formulation of the affirmation which would exclude pledging fealty to the Queen. If republicans succeed in Scotland, how soon before they demand the same at Westminster?

EVEN in his own backyard, the Tories are deserting William Hague. The council in his Yorkshire constituency yesterday fell to the Liberal Democrats without a single vote cast. Richmond Tories lost power because they were unable to find enough candidates to stand in next month's local elections.

CRICKET OR ATOMICS?



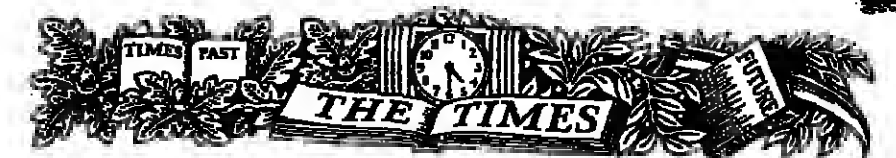
PETER MANDELSON may have left the Government, but his influence lives on. A minister has been taking the advice of Tony Blair's image consultant to its logical conclusion and begun visiting Madonna's plastic surgeon in Wimpole Street for Botox jabs.

Dr Jean-Louis Sebagh, who specialises in injecting the diluted form of botulinum toxin into foreheads to defeat wrinkles by freezing facial muscles, declines to break patient confidentiality. Such discretion turns the spotlight on so many ministers. However, one feels John Prescott and George Robertson are well above suspicion.

TODAY'S things are so inadequate at relationships that they are signing up for lessons on how to attract a partner. Thirty singletons have enrolled for a course called *Flirting for Fun* which begins this weekend. "Women can be very worried about giving out the wrong signals," says Joy Penzer, the organiser, "while men have to learn to cope with rejection."

EDWARD WELSH





## WAR DRUMS ON THE HILL

Congress has begun to confront the need for ground troops

Nato's claims that the air campaign is beginning to bite await their proof. But what may be more significant for the outcome of this war is the impact that Kosovo's agony has had on American voters — and, consequently, on Congress.

Before the Easter recess, Congress had little stomach for this war. The Senate gave only grudging support to Nato airstrikes, which were opposed by 38 out of 55 Republicans. In the House, most Republicans opposed deployment of US troops, even as a small part of the Nato peacekeeping force that would have policed the Rambouillet accord rejected by Slobodan Milosevic. But this week, after town hall meetings which, across the country, have been dominated by Kosovo, Congress has returned in a markedly different mood.

The question on Capitol Hill is no longer whether the US should be involved at all, but whether Nato can prevail in Kosovo with air power alone, as both President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore — like Tony Blair and Robin Cook — continue to insist; and what to do if it cannot. For an influential bipartisan group of congressmen, the answer is that Mr Clinton should never, for political as well as military reasons, have emboldened Mr Milosevic by ruling out the use of ground forces, and that the President should admit this now, and rapidly start to mobilise Nato troops.

Led by Senator John McCain of Arizona, a Vietnam veteran and leading Republican contender in next year's presidential elections, the group includes heavyweights of both parties, including John W. Warner, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, and the prominent Democrat Senators, Joe Biden and Joseph Lieberman. Of the 13 senior congressmen who toured Nato headquarters and European bases last week with William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, 11 returned to Washington calling on Congress to authorise the Administration to take all "necessary action". They argue that now that the US is engaged, it must be seen to be ready to do whatever is needed to win. There is still ambivalence in Congress, where debate ever since Vietnam has been

clouded by concern about "exit strategies": but the more haltingly the air campaign goes, the more ground forces appear the "least bad option". Opinion polls also reflect growing public support for a possible ground war. And all the presidential contenders have woken up, some to their great discomfort, to the fact that they will have to stake out their position on Kosovo, although only Mr Gore and Senator McCain have actually done so.

Caspar Weinberger, Defence Secretary under Ronald Reagan, speaks for much of the foreign policy establishment when he accuses Mr Clinton of "taking us into a war without any apparent intention to win" and without having "defined victory or established any real goals". There are sarcastic questions about why the Pentagon, which is supposed to be able to send the entire 101st Air Assault Division anywhere in the world within a fortnight, should be taking an eternity to deploy 24 Apache assault helicopters from Germany to Albania.

These combined pressures are beginning to tell. This week has seen a shift in Administration rhetoric; while Mr Clinton still ruled out ground troops yesterday, the word is that plans could change "very quickly" if need be. General Hugh Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who has been privately sceptical about what Washington wags dub the doctrine of "immaculate coercion", has begun publicly to discuss what a ground war would entail.

The Clinton Administration is having trouble singing in harmony. Madeleine Albright caused consternation at yesterday's Nato foreign ministers' meeting when she hinted that a "realistic and flexible" outcome could be the partition of Kosovo, with Belgrade retaining some troops and special police in the province. She was promptly contradicted by her own State Department. President Clinton needs to add military expertise to his team. Above all, he needs to demonstrate that the only "exit strategy" on his mind is the one that produces a convincing Nato victory. Every Western politician hopes that this will not require ground combat; but none of them can credibly continue to rule that out.

## A WEAKER TOMORROW

The continental way to corporate mergers without tears

From big banks to fashion to telephones, merger mania is marching through Europe. To British and American eyes the marriage plots of Paribas, Société Générale and Banque National de Paris might suggest improved shareholder value and a line of jobless managers to prove that the pain of rationalisation is real. The same effect might be anticipated from the sight of Bernard Arnault's LVMH sending Gucci up the catwalk into the arms of rival mogul François Pinault; or from Olivetti's sneak attack upon Telecom Italia. The £15.3 billion in bank borrowing Olivetti plans to use in its £40.5 billion raid makes this one of the biggest leveraged buyouts ever attempted anywhere. Junk bonds, white knights, poison pills, even the American corporate raiders Kohlberg Kravis Roberts are now on Europe's streets. Has continental business forsaken its protected ways and joined the real world?

In the first quarter of 1999 European mergers, acquisitions, and takeovers totalled £177 billion, more than double the figure for the same period of 1998. Some see this as a sign that the EU's single market is, at last, battering down the walls that its governments use to shelter business. Others point to the euro and its low interest rates as the spur for profit-hungry raids on inefficient European companies.

But there may be less to this frenzy than meets the eye. The mergers of Banco Santander and Banco Central Hispano in Spain, the marriages in Italian banking, BNP's attempt to fuse Paribas, Société Générale, and itself into the world's biggest bank, herald a shakeout in European banking. But instead of efficiency, these mergers are defensive moves against globalization that are as misbegotten as yesterday's answers to *le défi Américain*.

There is a whiff of old Europe here. Under General de Gaulle in the 1960s, and François Mitterrand in the 1980s, the idea was to create giant European companies to match their American and Japanese rivals in scale, efficiency and innovation. That logic animates today's banking mergers, with the added ingredient that bosses are as keen as politicians to create "national" and "EU" champions. This belief is based on three dubious assumptions: that bigger means more competitive; that national solutions are preferable to European solutions, which are in turn preferable to international deals; and that governments are needed as corporate marriage-brokers.

As brokers, European governments bring dowries called regulation and protectionism. In Britain and America, after a takeover, owners can close businesses and sack workers. Europe's labour laws and mighty unions make that hard. Improved efficiency becomes impossible when employers unilaterally disarm. BNP's chairman, Michel Pebereau, promised that, in his takeover effort, no worker would be sacked and no branch closed. Similar "no sack, no closure" pledges were made by bosses at UniCredit Italiano and Sanpaolo IMI during the takeovers that transformed the two into Italy's biggest banks.

France, Italy, and Spain sanctioned bank mergers supposedly to make their banks more competitive. Yet each cast votes of no-confidence in its banks by discouraging European competitors from seeking takeovers in their markets. Instead of making Europe's banks more competitive, today's takeovers are locking-in inefficiency. Here is a process that is not only foolhardy but dangerous. Today's mergers may succeed only in weakening Europe's banking system tomorrow.

## KEEP ON TRUCKING

Lorry drivers harm their case by jamming Britain's roads

Britain's lorry drivers, protesting about increased vehicle excise duty and tax on diesel, brought many cities to a standstill yesterday. Their action, unlike their case, is unjustified. Instead of frustrating motorists, road hauliers should concentrate on persuading the Chancellor to review his damaging plans. Blocking roads is no match for a well-articulated argument.

Higher taxes on road haulage undermine the industry's competitiveness. Filling a 1,000-litre lorry tank will cost £644, compared with £340 in Belgium. Licences for the 38-tonne lorry, used by most fleets, will rise from £3,310 to £5,750 a year, over £5,000 more than a similar licence costs in France. The impact will be felt throughout industry as costs rise.

Blocking Britain's arteries has allowed ministers to marshal public support against the truckers, mouth green slogans and baffle the public with statistics. More must be done, ministers claim, to encourage rail freight. Truckers must pay for polluting the atmosphere and wearing out roads: a 40-tonne lorry does more damage than 10,000 cars. Furthermore, if Britain's

comparatively low labour costs and corporation tax are taken into account, the Government estimates that the industry is one of the most competitive in Europe. Although ministers are right to condemn yesterday's chaos, these are weak ripostes. Higher costs will not stimulate a dramatic shift of haulage to rail, given the gaps in the railway network. The larger hauliers may register their fleets abroad and fill their tanks before entering Britain. Smaller operators will be undercut by foreign companies, whose lorries have made almost 50 per cent more journeys in this country in the past two years. Foreign, not British, pantechnions will continue to pollute and wear down the tarmac.

Ministers have admitted that they did not assess the impact of differences in the rate of duty within the European Union before these measures were introduced. They have established a "forum" to discuss the haulage industry's plight. Such a confession and conciliation strengthens the hauliers' argument. Lorry drivers should now pursue their case with vigour, not from their cabs but around the table.

## Roles for UN and Nato in Balkans

From Major-General R. S. N. Mans

Sir, In your leading article, "The Easter tide" (April 3), you praise the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees for co-ordinating summits on the plight of the Kosovo refugees. But surely such summits would have been unnecessary if detailed UN plans had been in place to deal with such a crisis.

Few if any lessons have been learnt from past disasters. The slow response to the Kurdish crisis in the aftermath of the Gulf War was one such example of many.

In the military environment planners are occupied continually in preparing plans for a wide range of contingencies, however remote they may seem. In the case of Kosovo this was no surprise event. There were ample warning signs months ago.

If detailed plans for the relief of refugees had been in hand there would have been no need for "emergency" summits. Relief could have been implemented with the minimum of delay, using both military aircraft and requisitioned civil assets.

It is ironic that in 1998 we celebrated the success of the Berlin Airlift and yet 50 years on, with the proliferation of larger and faster aircraft, we cannot mount such a swift response for Kosovo.

A lack of detailed and co-ordinated forward planning has always been the Achilles' heel of the UN administration and will continue to be so until more dynamic leadership is forthcoming in this vital area of its activities.

Yours sincerely,  
ROWLEY MANS,  
Ivy Bank Cottage,  
Vinegar Hill, Millford-on-Sea,  
Hampshire SO41 0RZ.  
April 9.

From Professor Harry G. Gelber

Sir, However this war in the Balkans, misconceived in origin and bungled so far in execution, finally ends, a few of its longer-term consequences can already be sketched.

The indispensability of American strategic leadership of Europe has been undermined. Nato has changed its role from a defensive alliance to one willing to intervene, in principle anywhere and unconstrained by the United Nations Charter. In the process Germany has not only reasserted its traditional Balkan interests but shown a new willingness to use armed force.

The already precarious stability of the Balkans has been undermined. If Nato insists on making a desert and calling it peace (letter, April 8), the whole region will be further destabilised and at minimum become a running political, military and economic sore. The Islamic world will not be reassured.

All that coincides with an eastward expansion of this new Nato. Russia has been doubly alienated and its nationalist element greatly strengthened. Its governments, of whatever colour, will look to its defences, both military and financial, and will seek closer relations with a China which has made it very clear that its political and strategic interests do not coincide with those of the West.

It is the political map of the world, not only of Europe, that is being redrawn.

Yours sincerely,  
HARRY GELBER,  
Centre for International Studies,  
The London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE.  
April 12.

From Dr F. H. Chowdhury

Sir, It is time Europe took charge of its own defence, instead of looking over its shoulder to guess how America will first react every time it faces a crisis.

Nato's woefully inadequate response during the Bosnian crisis and the predictable repetition of the same in Kosovo should leave European leaders in no doubt that Europe should be prepared to defend its own position rather than rely on the United States to resolve a European crisis.

America's global strategic interest and Europe's stability may not always be identical. European security should rest primarily with the European states.

Yours faithfully,  
F. H. CHOWDHURY,  
Hillside Farm, Melton Road,  
Hickling Pastures,  
Leicestershire LE14 3QG.  
April 12.

From Mr Randhir Singh Bains

Sir, You report (April 10) how the news that Russia may be re-targeting its nuclear weapons on Nato countries started a flurry of diplomatic activities. Does it not imply that if Serbia had nuclear weapons Nato leaders, instead of bombing it, would still be working to find a diplomatic solution to the Kosovo crisis?

Nuclear weapons, despite the horror and destruction they unleash, seem to have one positive implication: they allow diplomacy to work to its full potential — witness how the erstwhile Soviet Union and the United States learnt to compromise over the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

Yours faithfully,  
RANDHIR SINGH BAINS,  
34 Shere Road,  
Gants Hill, Essex IG2 6TG.  
April 10.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### New elements for Lords reform

From Lord Inglewood

Sir, In his response to Andrew Tyrie's view (article, March 26; see also leading article, April 1) that "bicameral democracy" is needed to counter the domination of Parliament by the executive, Lord Skidelsky replies (letter, April 6) that our constitution is based on the executive commanding the support of the House of Commons so it can always have its way, and no executive would propose bicameralism of the kind advocated.

Certainly our present one is not. The royal commission which has been set up to point the way has been given terms of reference which stipulate the House of Commons' continuing "pre-eminence".

Tyrie argues the cause of the democrat wanting the people's elected representatives to reassess their conduct over the runaway executive via a two-chamber Parliament which is less easy for it to control than either a de facto or de jure unicameral system. Skidelsky makes the constitutionalists' case that any new arrangements must lie within the wider existing constitutional settlement as it has now evolved. Both have worthwhile arguments.

The irony behind the debate is that while the Government has been genuinely radical with some of its constitutional changes it is very conservative in its plans for the second chamber. Other than jettisoning hereditary members, no clear rationale for further substantive change emerges from the rhetoric. Indeed, it now appears not to be a matter of reforming the second chamber at all: rather, principally, it seems to be a matter of changing the personnel.

Yours,  
INGLEWOOD,  
House of Lords.  
April 8.

From Mr Jamie Corrie

Sir, Ideas about reform of the House of Lords abound. At the "safe" end of the spectrum are proposals to nominate or directly elect members. However, these would destroy any last vestiges of an apolitical chamber by filling it with political cronies or professional politicians. Better, but fundamentally undemocratic, is think-tank Demos's idea of random selection (report and leading article, May 30, 1998).

Perhaps most promising of all, but hampered by being untied, is the proposal to elect true "people's peers" democratically by voting on the achievements of individuals who have been nominated at a community level. Faced with this dilemma, Lord Wakeham's royal commission should consider declaring the next 20 years an experimental period. Up to three of

the most promising ideas could be implemented in parallel, each providing an equal proportion of members. The experiment would close with a referendum in which the electorate could select their preferred method (or keep the mix).

This approach would allow the commission to consider some of the more promising but less-ried ideas. Having provided a fair trial on the ground, it would also help to deepen public confidence in the new institution — something that will be greatly needed if it is to be able to carry out its role with as much authority as the old.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMIE CORRIE,  
Morvern Cottage,  
Kilchoan, Argyll PH36 4LH.  
jrc@hse.clornet.net  
April 7.

From the Director of Common Sense for Lords Reform

Sir, Mr William Hutton (letter, April 6) is quite right to inquire about research into public opinion regarding reform of the Lords. We carried out two major surveys to establish this. The first, by MORI in November, found that by two to one the general public was against getting rid of hereditary peers until a full review had taken place. A second, larger poll by ICM, also in November, confirmed this view by three to one.

Since then the Government has agreed to 92 hereditary peers continuing to attend and vote in the House of Lords during the transitional phase until full reform takes place (after a royal commission).

Yours faithfully,  
PETER SANGUINETTI,  
Director,  
Common Sense for Lords Reform,  
1st Floor, Douglas House,  
16-18 Douglas Street, SW1P 4PB.  
April 6.

From Mr D. J. Hurford-Jones

Sir, Mr Leonard Allen (letter, April 6) correctly points out that our second parliamentary chamber has members coming from a wide variety of the professions and fields of endeavour, many of whom have achieved distinction in their chosen occupation and some of whom are of international repute.

However, most members of the House of Lords come into none of these categories, are only there and entitled to vote on legislation by an accident of birth, and no matter how bad they are or become, we, the people affected by the legislation, cannot get rid of them.

Yours faithfully,  
D. J. HURFORD-JONES,  
Island House,  
Burford, Oxford OX18 4RR.  
April 6.

### Wildlife protection

From Mr Graham Wynne and others

Sir, One of the most welcome commitments in Labour's general election manifesto was the promise to give greater protection to Britain's wildlife.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, has done an impressive job of building a wide consensus around the need for change in the way we manage our countryside: there is a broad acceptance on the part of the landowning and farming communities that the kind of damage we have seen must not be sustained.

On Tuesday, April 13, the Deputy Prime Minister will receive almost a quarter of a million pledges from members and supporters of 22 conservation and environmental organisations calling for tougher new legislation.

The public support is clear, and so is the urgency. Each year more than 300 sites of special scientific interest are damaged. Further habitats are lost or degraded and vulnerable species are pushed closer to extinction.

The longer Government delays in introducing new wildlife laws the more pollution, ploughing, draining, development and neglect will carry on destroying Britain's biodiversity.

On behalf of our three million members — and the thousands of supporters who have signed the wildlife protection pledges — we are calling upon the Prime Minister to put a comprehensive wildlife Bill in the Government's programme this autumn.

Yours etc,  
GRAHAM WYNNE,  
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,  
ADRIAN DERBY,  
Plantlife,  
JULIA HAMNER,  
Bat Conservation Trust,  
SIMON LYSTER,  
The Wildlife Trust,  
ROBERT NAPIER,  
WWF-UK,  
CHARLES SECRETT,  
Friends of the Earth,  
Wildlife and Countryside Link,  
246 Lavender Hill, SW11 1LJ.  
April 12.

### Mobile phones

From Mr Walter Grey

Sir, You report (April 8) that the best way to limit the brain's exposure to the health hazard of mobile phone microwaves, according to the *New Scientist*, is to use a "hands-free" set which enables the telephone to be worn on a belt.

This is also in line with the advice (not injunction) given to motorists, for different safety reasons, by the Highway Code — that only such sets be used while driving. Recognising the helplessness of the overworked police in this matter, however, science may have to come to the rescue.

Gadgets exist, or are being developed, capable of jamming mobiles being abused in restaurants, concert halls and other public places, or (eg, in an emergency) of pinpointing their location within a few feet from a distance. So why not also a tamper-proof gadget that will, say, automatically immobilise handsets recklessly being used by drivers of vehicles in motion?

Yours faithfully,  
WALTER GREY,  
12 Arden Road, Finchley, N3 3AN.  
April 8.

From Mr David Allison-Beer

Sir, So 4.3 million Britons have acquired the icon of the millennium in

the past six months (article, *Business*, April 7). No doubt, each new owner is informed of the high odds against being able to use it to make or receive calls.

After four years as a mobile owner, I have found the service has deteriorated to a level where I prefer to use a telephone box. These days one rarely has to queue, as everyone is trying to use a mobile, and one may make a call that is not interrupted by extraneous noises or loss of service.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID ALLISON-BEER,  
Carrington Cottage,  
29 Bridge Road,  
Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2QP.  
April 7.

From Mr Christopher Balkwill

Sir, "Mobile phones 'quicken the brain'", headline, April 8.

At last I know how my student son manages to do nothing much but still gets results.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER BALKWILL,  
43 Baker Road,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 5LQ.  
April 8.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### 'Spiral' addition to the V&A contested

From Sir Ronald Arculus

Sir, The proposed "spiral" addition to the Victoria and Albert Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind will, it has been suggested, do for the V&A what Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum is at present doing for Bilbao — draw the crowds (article by Simon Jenkins, "Pilgrimage to Bilbao", September 18, 1998).

I have just been to Bilbao to see. Emerging from a grimy industrial past, Bilbao wanted a novelty to attract attention. The Guggenheim is such a spectacle, particularly outside. It is on a huge, clear site by a river. Inside are vast, empty, cathedral-like spaces. Conventional galleries are inserted like white wooden boxes. Enormous pieces of modern sculpture will be constructed to fill the main hangar-like horizontal space.

The case of the V&A is totally different. It may lack space for modern artefacts, but it is not meant to house large chunks of modern art — that is the role of the new Tate Gallery on Bankside. The V&A is well used and renowned worldwide. It does not need a trendy crowd-puller.

The narrow gap behind the existing screen is not suitable for a revolutionary architectural experiment, with its attendant difficulties of construction, maintenance and repairs, and high cost. The spiral plans would provide only two modest floors for galleries. Its odd angles, ramps, stairways and lifts would waste much of the overall space.

A better idea? Simply fill the gap with a stylish Post-Modern building, keeping the screen, with many shallow floors to take offices, records, stores, equipment and services. This would free space in more suitable areas for exhibits, cost far less, be less controversial and more practical. It might not fulfil the dreams of the spiral architect. But Kensington is not Bilbao.

Yours sincerely,  
RONALD ARCULUS,  
Chairman, Kensington Court Residents Association,  
20 Kensington Court Gardens,  
London W8 5QP.  
April 12.

### Age of consent

From the Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, At a time of growing unease both about our society's apparent preoccupation with sex and about the social and health implications of more teenagers having sexual relationships at an ever younger age, is it really wise for Parliament to be legislating to lower the age of consent for homosexual acts to 16 (letters, April 6 and 10)?

We surely need to think very carefully, not only about the need to protect vulnerable young boys and girls from exploitative relationships but also about the wider signals the law should be sending, especially now.

Yours sincerely,  
BASIL HUME,  
Archbishop's House,  
Westminster, SW1P 1JQ.  
April 12.

From the Reverend T. G. Anderson

Sir, We are told (by my area bishop among others) that justice demands the defence of lesbian and gay people's human rights, even if there are some who promote the view that homosexual activity is unethical.

The effect of this is to make justice, in terms of equality, the ultimate criterion in deciding what is right and wrong. Is this really the ethical basis on which our Christian tradition is based? And if so, by whose authority?

Yours faithfully,  
TIM ANDERSON,  
The Vicarage,  
122 Goldthorn Hill,  
Wolverhampton  
West Midlands WV2 3HU.  
April 7.

### Young letter writers

From Mrs Janet A. Curni

Sir, Dr Clive Layton (letter, April 6) questioned why a young letter writer's age was published on this page. Is it not simply about recognising, valuing, supporting and encouraging one another, particularly the young, along life's journey?

I was indeed heartened to read a letter from such a young reader. Surely today's youth voicing their interest and concerns about global issues gives us hope for our tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,  
JANET A. CURNI  
(A new grandmother, aged 57),  
Little Common Cottage,  
Rayne, Essex CM7 8SU.  
April 7.

### Devolution licence

From Dr Iain A. McCoubrey

Sir, The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is clearly preparing for devolution. My recently issued photocard driving licence gives my place of birth as "United Kingdom".

Yours faithfully,  
IAIN MCCOUBREY,  
12 Mill Paddock, Letchworth Regis,  
Wantage, Oxfordshire OX12 9JE.  
mccubre@compuserve.com  
April 12.











Outsourcing is old hat; businesses are revising the role of their office support services. Rodney Hobson reports

# In-house is in vogue again

Talk about whether companies should outsource all their support operations or in-house was all the rage only 12 months ago, but suddenly it seems to be old hat. Now the buzzwords are right sourcing and hybrid sourcing.

Professor Ilfryn Price, co-director of the facilities management (FM) research centre at Sheffield Hallam University, explains: "The change in government policy since 1997 has in some ways put a dampener on the seemingly interminable growth of FM outsourcing because it put 'best value' on the agenda. Managerial practice was forced into a more concentrated search for value and not just automatically deciding that things would be done in-house or out."

"There is much more of a genuine desire for service companies in FM to have to show that they are providing added value, for example through better development of people or by linking FM to the management of assets or information."

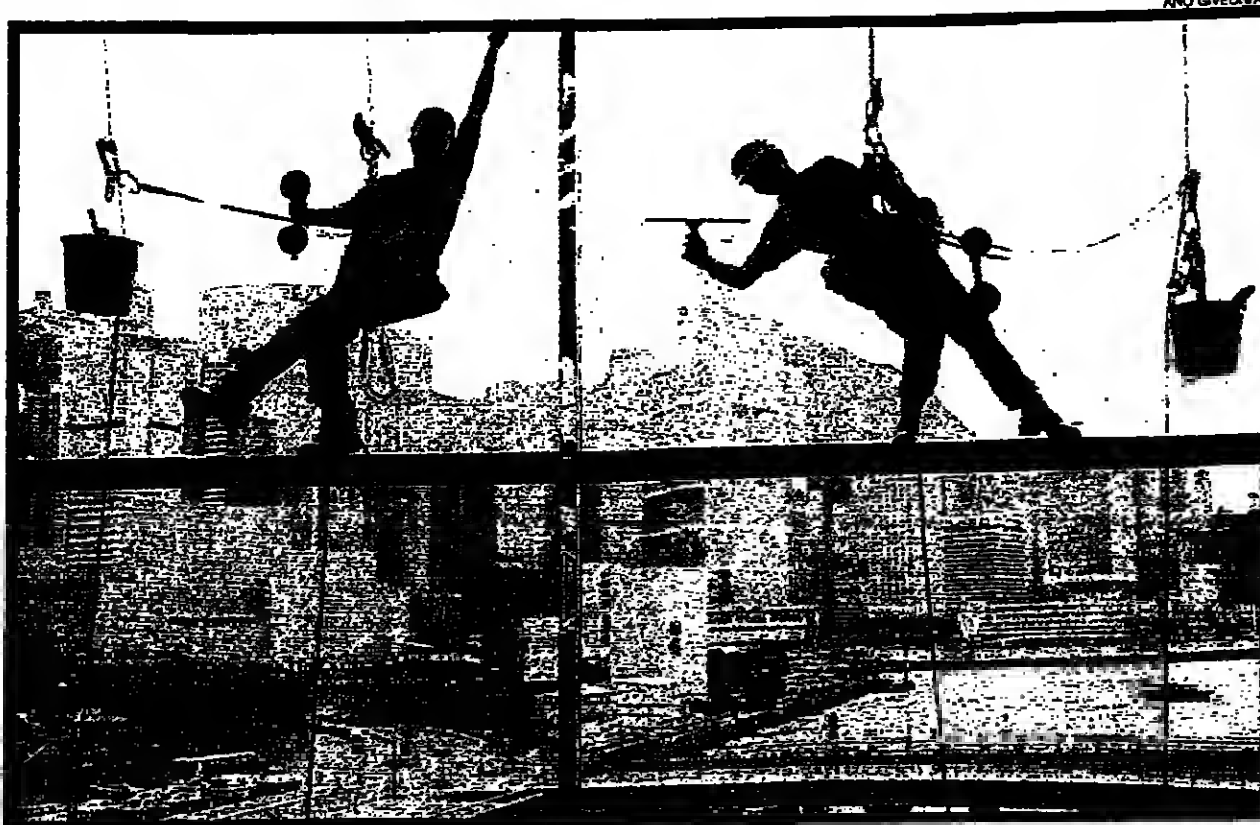
Companies are looking to manage their facilities in partnership with FM providers, setting up hybrid operations that involve some degree of outsourcing but effectively operate in-house.

Professor Price says: "Whereas the first phase of the development of the industry from the early Nineties onwards was perhaps driven by opportunities to chase low-lying fruits — FM providers were plucking the easy bits — what is happening now is that some FM companies out there are developing innovative market techniques and are doing very well."

"On the other hand, some internal managers are delivering better value than average. A more mature industry is developing and I think more and more organisations, especially in the complex public sector areas such as hospitals, are appreciating that value for money demands alternatives to meet different strategies."

In the rush to outsource, the terms "outsourcing" and "facilities management" started to become synonymous in the public eye. Yet the greater proportion of facilities managers are still employed in-house and the balance will stay that way.

It is against this background that the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM) is seeking not only to raise standards but to set a benchmark — a widely recognised accreditation — against which providers can be judged.



Window cleaning, performed by two workers, above, and below by a machine, is a typical responsibility of the facilities manager

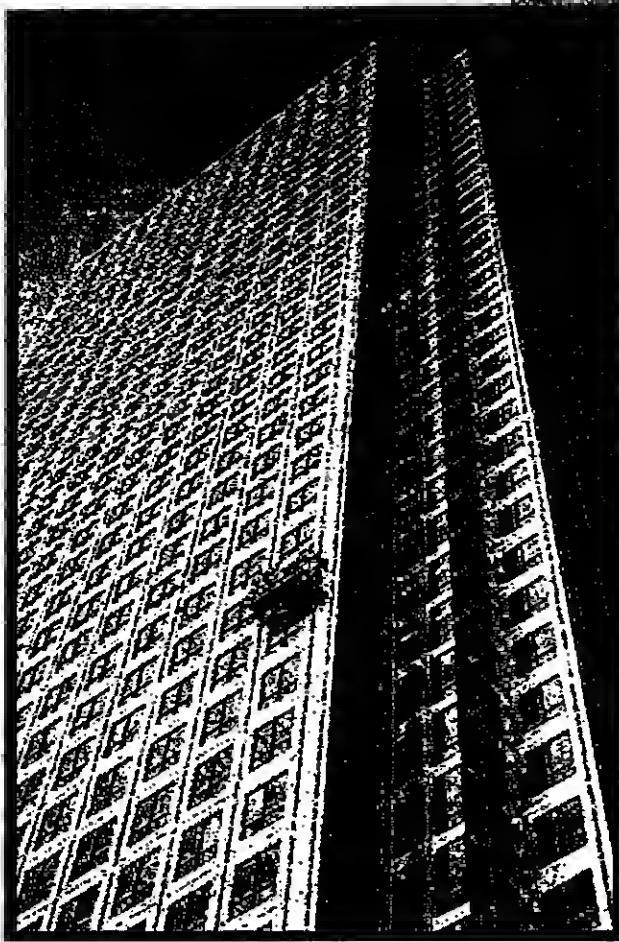
Sir Antony Walker, the new director-general of the BIFM, is particularly keen to raise standards and develop training programmes, seeing this as a way not only for members to win more business but also as a way to strengthen the institute's lobbying power and extend its influence into Europe. Training and qualifications are available for the institute's 5,500 individual members but there is no piece of paper that companies can wave to attest to their competence.

At the end of last year Sir Antony approached the FM consultancy Aimita to devise an accreditation programme for its 200 corporate members. In doing so he caught the mood of many of them who have increasingly felt that the institute should do more to set industry standards that everyone can recognise.

Aimita is adapting the Business Excellence Model devised by the European Foundation for Quality Management, a European Union organisation.

Aimita has also enlisted the help of Southampton Institution, which has run accreditation programmes in other areas of business and which was keen to get involved.

As a first step, large organi-



sations such as Rolls-Royce, IBM, Xerox and government bodies have been approached and it is hoped that at least 25, and possibly as many as 50, major companies will get involved.

Although the agreement between the BIFM and Aimita is for three years, Aimita aims to roll out a proposed model for the FM industry at the BIFM annual conference in September.

Lionel Progers, BIFM chairman, says: "It is the non-core activities that require the efficient management, co-ordination and administration that best practice in FM brings, very often in complex environments or tough commercial conditions."

"The more complex aspects of FM now include the complete management of the work space, including best utilisation of built and physical assets, information management, communications and information technology."

"It is these higher level business challenges that require everyone in the maturing FM market to consider the need for greater education in the field, quality research and an understanding of the European and international dimensions of the whole industry."

## Office costs fall short of inflation rate

Maintenance and gas are the two fastest rising costs for offices, while reprographics and catering are getting cheaper. The latest survey by Johnson Controls, an international facilities and property management company, shows that the overall costs involved in running an office rose at less than the rate of inflation (2.5 to 3 per cent) in the last six months of 1998; this trend is likely to continue until mid-1999.

According to Johnson's UK office costs index, the cost of providing property operations and office services rose by 1.9 per cent full-time occupant in the second half of last year, an increase of 1 per cent (to £2,410) compared with the first half of 1998. This means that an average facility supporting 500 people can up total bills of just over £1.2 million last year for building maintenance, cleaning, security, utilities, communications, reprographics, post-room services, reception facilities, internal moves, catering and stationery.

The index does not include rents and rates, insurance, service charges, depreciation and capital investments (including information technology). Published every half-year, it is intended as a management tool based on a model of a medium-grade office building with 500 full-time occupants.

Maintenance costs rose by 3 per cent during the second six months of 1998. The most significant rise was in labour costs, which increased by nearly 5 per cent. The price of maintenance materials rose by just 1 per cent, continuing the trend of the previous half-year. Johnson believes the index for both halves of 1999

will show steadier cost increases as wages level out.

Labour costs for cleaning and security have also abated, with the prospect of a static year in 1999 if the economic downturn continues. In these service areas, costs have risen in line with inflation.

Management costs rose by 2 per cent in the second half of last year. Among the utilities, gas prices rose by 3 per cent compared with the previous six-month period. Johnson expects prices to hold steady during the current half-year.

Water costs rose in line with inflation. Johnson expects an easier year in 1999. It points out that the water regulator (Ofwat) is pushing for rate cuts, which should at least head off further price rises in the next few months.

Electricity prices rose by 1 per cent during the latest review period. Johnson predicts an increase of about 2 per cent in the current survey period. The imponderable for future price trends in gas and electricity is whether the Chancellor will impose a new energy tax, pushing up electricity prices by a further 10 per cent.

With postage costs static, mail-room costs rose by 0.5 per cent because of higher labour costs. Three areas of office costs experienced a fall during the six months to December. Catering costs fell by 1 per cent thanks to reductions in food prices. Communications costs were down by about 1 per cent.

The big gain, though, was in reprographics, where a continued downward trend in the price of equipment slashed total costs by 3 per cent over the six-month period.

RODNEY HOBSON

A new tax would push up electricity prices by 10 per cent

## Managing workplace change

COMPANIES which provide single services such as catering, cleaning and security for other businesses are playing an increasingly important part in the FM industry, writes Tony Dave.

That change will be reflected at FM Expo 99, which opens at Olympia, London, today and continues until Thursday. Both the show and the

conference running alongside it will focus more on providing individual facilities than on the work of companies offering total FM packages.

Energy and document management will be the subject of conference sessions alongside the broader issues of value for money and health and safety.

Companies like Ackermann, which offers total electrical sys-

tems, will exhibit alongside FM giants including AMEC Facilities and OCS.

Among new features at this year's show is an expanded alternative office conference, which will focus on new technologies as well as the cultural and social issues connected with nomadic working.

"The changing shape of the workplace impacts on everyone and FM Expo will allow managers a unique insight into how the workplace is changing and how to make the

most of it," says Simon Parker, event manager for Miller Freeman, the show organiser.

A separate exhibition at Olympia this week, Construct IT, will provide an opportunity to view computer programs designed to help manage building projects. "This will help to achieve our aim of organising features relevant not only to facilities managers but also to building designers and those responsible for running buildings when they are completed," Mr Parker adds.

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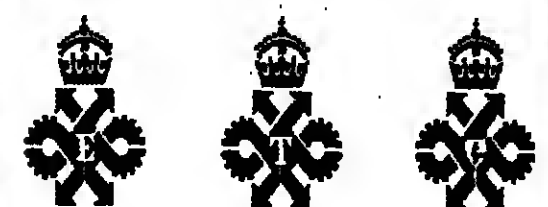
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# A bug that need not be bigger than you are

Rodney Hobson on a scheme that helps small firms beat the millennium computer bug

Most big companies have the resources to tackle the millennium computer bug to ensure that their systems do not crash when the year ticks over to the dreaded double digit. Or they should have by now.

Small companies, however, are still finding it hard to come to terms with the potential disaster and even harder to find someone to help.

John Howell, chief executive of South London Training and Enterprise Council (Solotec), which has run highly successful workshops for small and medium businesses, thinks he knows why.

He says: "Where people who want to help small businesses make a mistake is that they start talking technology. We do not talk about computers, we talk about fundamental business issues. We put a building falling down on the front of our leaflets and asked, 'Do you want your business to fall down?'"

Training and enterprise councils were asked last July to target small businesses that were facing computer problems.

Mr Howell says: "It came as a bolt from the blue. We had already started the financial year. But we had got the right people on board and we dedicated resources from day one."

Solotec found that the companies with the greatest difficulties tended to be those with between 20 and 25 employees, big enough to have moved into computers comparatively early, when dates were stored as double digits, and big enough to have set up networks linking staff, suppliers, and customers, but not big enough to have in-house expertise to tackle the millennium time bomb.

Solotec had already trained 136 small firms in South London by the end of January. A further 200 are now in training and 780 more have signed up for the workshops. Brian Harrison, Solotec's information technology and business manager, says that interest is still high.

Solotec carefully targeted small to medium-size businesses in an intensive campaign. These firms constitute more than 90 per cent of the business stock of the country and nearly half of Britain's gross domestic product.

Among those in the first batch for training was Geoffrey Gee, a one-man consultancy. He approached Solotec because he was anxious on

two grounds: like others, he wanted to know whether his computers were 2000-compliant, and he was worried that he would lose contracts if he could not demonstrate that his computers would not crash or lose vital information in the new year.

Operating from an office at home in Bromley, South London, he specialises in education, accountancy and finance, as well as computing, and has clients ranging from the Cambridge Examination Board to local small businesses.

By the end of a three-day "assess and manage" course run by the Centre for Professional Development, he had tested his computers for 2000-compliance and leap-year compliance as well. The extra day next year, combined with the switch to 2000, is a potential extra hazard.

Mr Gee had carried out any necessary remedial tasks and developed a realistic action plan for handling suppliers and customers. He did have the advantage of a computer background, having spent

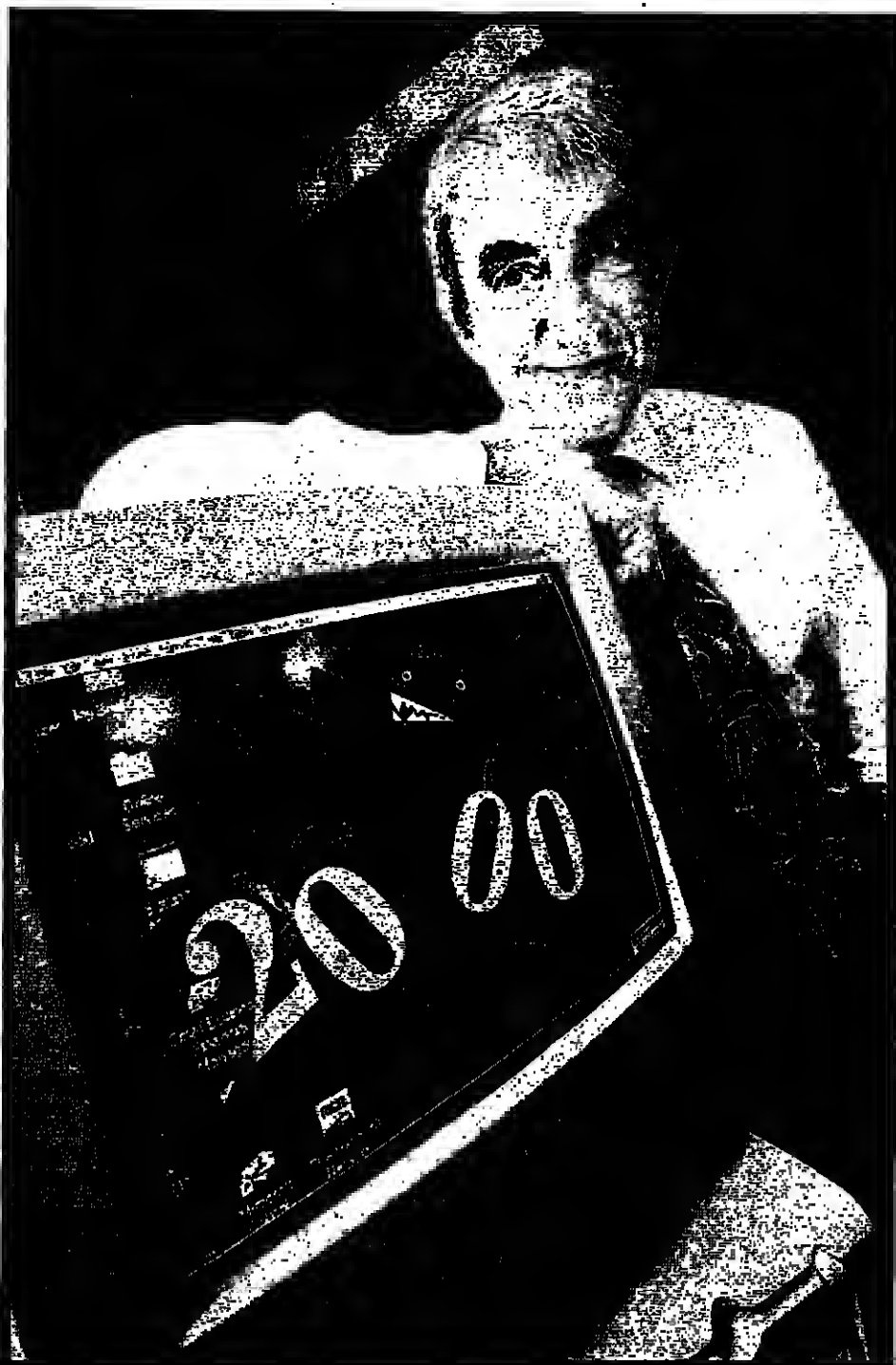
much of his career building computer-based manpower planning models with the Central Electricity Generating Board.

He says that all 20 people on the course were able to cope with a little help. During the first two days, they learnt how to test computers using a floppy disc and were taken through the Eight Steps to Compliance, a checklist designed by Action 2000, the company set up by the Government to help and advise private sector businesses on how to tackle the millennium bug.

The course members then had a week to write an action plan for their own business which they presented to the group on their return. Successful completion of the course was rewarded by a certificate of competence.

Mr Gee says: "The workshop was most reassuring because it showed that the millennium bug is not a death sentence but perfectly manageable given the excellent information and resources pack that everyone gets."

The trainers were so impressed with Mr Gee they invited him to join them as a millennium bug trainer. He says: "It seemed appropriate to help others struggling with the bug as I was one of those who adopted what was then the standard practice of showing the date as two digits rather than four, the root of the millennium problem."



Geoffrey Gee with his millennium-compliant computer, thanks to Solotec

## Harmony and tranquillity of inner space

For more than half the companies in Britain, the cost of providing desk space for staff is second only to the cost of paying them. Balancing these two vital interests, instead of letting the first dominate the second, is becoming an essential part of facilities management.

Saving small sums on property at the expense of upsetting and demotivating staff may actually cause a company to lose money, Tony Dawe writes.

In the cost-cutting past, calculating the price of Janet's bulky filing cabinet and Bill's extra large desk led to a vogue for saving space and money by cramming desks closer together while reducing "wasted" space like recreational areas.

Now FM experts recognise that staff don't like sitting in cramped conditions. They

have walking along corridors to share a copying machine, lose their tempers when bulky reference books are thrown out to save space and loathe not having personal desk and storage space.

As Peter Frost, the chief executive of OfficeSMART, says: "What is rarely taken into account is the cost of absenteeism, low morale and general inefficiency created by cramming employees into the drab and unattractive offices that cost-cutting has created."

"Nowadays people are more likely to work on projects and be multi-skilled rather than working at a 'job' doing the same work all day. When they work in teams, the old office layout for process workers is inappropriate. In my own desk I have a cockpit with a concentration area facing the

wall, and I want to talk to other people then I can turn into the room and have a meeting. A lot of desks now have a bulb on the end where two or three people can be fitted. This design creates a relaxed atmosphere and a spirit of openness instead of the old set-up where a manager had a desk and you confronted him across it."

A manager to supervise staff and ensure that they were not chatting or filing their nails, but he could not be sure they were making an effective contribution to the company.

Current thinking is to trust staff and give them a comfortable, unthreatening environment where they feel confident and valued. At the same time, office costs will continue to be analysed closely, with less emphasis on "traditional" long-

term ownership of individual work spaces. One answer is to make sure desks are designed with space efficiency in mind. Atlas Business Furniture claims that its Centa units can save 40 per cent of floor space. "Most desks waste space either side of the computer," Darren Buttle, managing director, says. "In our system, the PC sits snugly in the depth of the unit, opening up space for work papers in front. The idea is not to cram people into a small space but to make good use of all the space and create an attractive working environment."

Nigel Oseland, of The Con-

sulting Business, believes that companies which design their facilities to increase productivity will beat those interested in providing only the bare minimum at the lowest cost.

The normal role of facilities managers might be to reduce office costs but he argues that if the facilities help a higher-paid employee, like a consultant or manager, to add 1 per cent to productivity this can result in another £1,000 earned by the company or pay half the annual cost of providing the employee accommodation.

"Facilities managers must balance cost, quality and per-

formance," he says. "Costs can be compared against a national database to check value for money but quality requires assessing staff satisfaction and how and when space is used."

"High density can increase noise, cause distraction and reduce performance. One solution is to break the space into sections, providing quiet areas for concentrated work, where people can have fun, bounce ideas off each other and interact, and enclosed spaces where they can have confidentiality. Space efficiency does not mean just stacking and racking people."

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### OFFICE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

THE FACILITIES management team award takes precedence in this year's BIFM Office of the Year Awards, which are to be announced tonight.

The growing importance of FM in the design process has been acknowledged by the judges who have been impressed by the contribution the teams have made to the success of so many of the projects submitted for consid-

eration. The shortlists for other awards are: ■ Purpose-built offices: Oracle Corporation UK Limited, whose business helps clients to utilise and manage IT - it has grown from 400 employees 10 years ago to more than 4,500 today.

British Airways, whose Waterside complex of 51,000 square metres houses 2,800 British Airways staff, covering commercial, financial and strategic activities and customer services training, as well as its health centre.

■ Existing buildings: Rail-track plc, which took the strategic step of moving 800 staff from five premises into a single office - a vacant 15-storey 1970s single core tower building, in front of Euston main-line station, provided the ideal opportunity.

United Distillers & Vintners, whose 1970s offices in Borron Street, Glasgow, had been largely untouched save for a refurbishment in 1986 - the building was treated as a greenfield site for its transformation.

Thomas Cook Direct, which needed to expand its travel agency call-centre service, and found a warehouse in Falkirk, owned by the local authority, right for its purpose.

■ Smaller offices: Interface Europe Ltd, which redeveloped its site at Shelf, near Halifax, West Yorkshire.

Overbury plc, which consolidated its three offices on to one site in a 1960s building.

There are two other awards that will be announced tonight: the Green award and the Innovation award.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN



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Let chain the strain rich pick

Olympian to attain



# Let chain take the strain for rich pickings

Take the right precautions and franchising can prove highly rewarding, says Henrietta Lake

Look down any high street and there will be a string of successful franchises, from Kwik to Snappy Snaps or Domino's Pizza, which have provided their founders with juicy financial rewards and one of the quickest ways to expand their businesses.

But entrepreneurs looking for growth need to be aware that a successful business does not necessarily make a prize-winning franchise. Before taking the plunge and setting up a franchise operation, owners need to think carefully about how franchising would suit their company culture as well as its products or services.

"Any business which is capable of being run as a branch network should at least think about franchising," says Brian Duckett, of Horwath Franchising, a consultancy.

To turn a business into a booming franchise it has to be capable of being easily replicated. For example, premises should be simple to find and capable of being fitted quickly. The process must also be easily learnt; it has to be possible to train someone how to operate the business relatively quickly, even if they do not have experience in the field.

Franchises work only if they are profitable for both parties. Low-margin businesses need not apply.

Chantal d'Orthez founded Brush & Bisquit, where customers draw their own designs on blank pottery, just 18 months ago. She already has three franchises in London, each turning over about £120,000, and plans to open an average of ten a year in the UK, until there are 30, and then expand into Europe.

"The Brush & Bisquit concept was just perfect for franchising: a streamlined operation, which was easy to run, with low overheads, high mar-

gins and a fun atmosphere to work in," she explained.

Businesses ripe for franchise must have a distinctive image that is fully owned. "It sounds obvious," said Mr Duckett, "but some businesses start considering franchising when they have not even trademarked their name. You cannot license other people to use your name unless you have the sole rights to it first."

The firm also needs to be proven and to be capable of growth in the medium term and the long term. Established businesses, rather than just good ideas, make the best franchises. Experts recommend setting up several fully-owned pilot operations before launching a franchise network.

Throttlemann, the Portuguese menswear retailer that boasts the world's biggest and most colourful range of boxer shorts, is using franchising to expand its operation in the UK. It has 35 stores in Europe and has set up fully-owned stores in the Kings Road, West London, Broadgate Circle and the Bluewater shopping centre in Kent, while another is scheduled to open in Regent Street in London in June.

Bruno Guerbi, manager of the UK operation, said: "It was important to make sure we had the formula right in the UK first before franchising. However, it has proved successful and we plan to have 30 franchises in total in the UK. But we don't want to expand too quickly, we need to find the right franchisees and plan to open six this year."

There are numerous government and EU grants and loans available to both franchisees and franchisors. However, Mr Duckett is sceptical, and says: "If you need a grant, you don't have the money to franchise."

The drive to franchise and having the right product must be backed by cash. Franchising consultancy fees range

between £5,000 and £10,000. Add to this lawyers' and accountants' charges of about £3,500 and the marketing cost of recruiting franchisees, which averages about £6,000 per franchise.

On top of this, a company must ask itself whether its culture would lend itself to franchising. "This is where most franchises fall down," said Mr Duckett. "It is all about a mutually supportive relationship. You can't treat franchisees like branch managers and expect them to automatically do as they are told."

Senhor Guerbi said: "Franchisees are not employees, but business partners and must be managed accordingly. You need to work hard to maintain the right relationships."

Tony Mundella, of Baker Tilly, the accountancy practice, recommends that the exact division of roles and responsibilities between the franchisor and the franchisees be identified early on.

There is plenty of advice and training available for franchisors, from companies such as Horwath Franchising and Baker Tilly, on how to manage the relationship with their franchisees.

They say that it is a delicate role — combining policeman and mentor — and advise franchisors to portray themselves as personal business consultants to their franchisees.

Horwath Franchising: 0171-917 9824; Baker Tilly: 0181-754 9995.

□ The British Franchise Exhibition is taking place on April 16-17 at Wembley Conference Centre in London. For information or tickets call 01280 707433.

LINKS  
WEBSITE: www.franchise.co.uk



Bruno Guerbi, manager of Throttlemann's UK operation, says 30 franchises are planned

## IN BRIEF

### Scottish firms unconvinced on independence

Most Scottish small businesses are against independence, according to a survey by the lobby group the Forum of Private Business.

With only a month to go before elections for the Scottish parliament, 67 per cent of the 540 businesses surveyed said that they did not agree with independence.

Meanwhile, 47 per cent feared it would be bad for their own operations, with 29 per

cent saying that it would make little difference. Less than one in six thought that independence would be good for their firm.

Gerry Dowd, Scottish director at the FPB, said: "Many small and medium-sized businesses still see the new parliament as another layer of bureaucracy and it will have to earn its spurs quickly by demonstrating that it can listen to the needs of small firms."

Small businesses could receive up to £45,000 in prize money for coming up with innovative ways to improve the running of their companies. The awards are part of a new initiative by the Regional Development Agency for London, known as the London Development Partnership, to improve the information technology skills of small businesses in the region. For further information telephone 0171-248 5555.

Business owners are losing money by failing to claim all the tax breaks to which they are entitled, according to Mazars Neville Russell, the accountants. Although most claim tax relief for cars and other vehicles, few realise that they can do the same for their office buildings and machinery. For a copy of a handbook on how to find the money hidden inside the company walls, telephone 01273 206789.

Learning how to take the heat will mean getting into the kitchen for managers on a new training course. Ready Steady Train puts business people in a kitchen and forces them to prepare banquets in teams, and on time. Ready Steady Train is demonstrating its novel techniques at the Human Resources Development Week exhibition at Olympia in London this week. For more information call 01256 818811.

MARK ROY, managing director of direct marketing firm the READ Group, based in Sevenoaks, Kent, says the mountains of junk mail will grow if companies like his are not allowed to use the electoral roll.

"The Data Protection Registrar is considering proposals to ban the marketing industry from using the electoral roll for commercial purposes. This will not only have my turnover overruled and severely hamper the industry, but it will mean that the public will receive ten times more direct mail, which they do not want. My company uses the electoral roll to update other firms' databases and last year we stopped 19 million wrongly directed mailshots going to out-of-date addresses."

"The Government must be made to see that they will be making things worse if they go ahead with this proposal."

Any company wishing to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business.



Roy: junk mail fear

## Olympian leads team to attain new goals

Skills learnt on the sports field have powered a firm from its start in a garage six years ago to £20m turnover

IF PROOF were needed that a sportsman's judgment and motivation skills can lead to success off the pitch, then Richard Leman is your man.

Mr Leman, an entrant in the Entrepreneur of the Year competition, captained the gold-winning British hockey team at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and has 227 international hockey caps. He now runs Olympian Consulting, an information technology recruitment company, which turned over £20 million last year.

The company, based in East Grinstead, West Sussex, and employing 112, provides contract and permanent IT workers for clients including the BBC, Debenhams and GEC. Mr Leman said: "Every day at Olympian, I use the skills in motivating and building teams that I learnt on the hockey field. I believe that much of the company's success is about positive mental attitude. We have a saying here that winning is a habit. I operate a performance-based culture in which people are given the flexibility to demonstrate their skills, which makes the company grow faster."

He talks to all new employees about his aim for Olympi-



Richard Leman says his hockey years help him in business

an and how they can take an active role in decision-making. "It means we are all pointing in the same direction and we achieve more," he said.

The inclusive approach seems to work. This year's turnover target is £30 million. It may seem ambitious, but is based on an impressive record. Mr Leman admits that the IT recruitment market is boom-

ing, growing 25 per cent each year, but Olympian has grown annually by between 120 and 233 per cent for four years.

Mr Leman set up the business six years ago in a friend's garage with a £7,000 loan from his mother. It took him seven months to win his first customer — just when he was close to giving up. "I worked through Christmas and new



ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

year in that first year," Mr Leman said. "I remember Daley Thompson saying he trained on Christmas Day because he thought it would give him an extra 2 per cent on his decathlon rival. This extra 2 per cent is what I encourage my staff to strive for."

Employees are appraised quarterly, with clear goals being agreed. "I give my sales people the tools to do the job and the freedom to steer their own career path," Mr Leman said.

In its first three years, Olympian reinvested all profits in developing a database that Mr Leman sees as a key to its success, along with being more discriminating that some rivals in the candidates that it submits to clients. He said: "I invest in administration and back-up before ploughing money into the selling and recruiting departments. I cannot afford to let down clients by being ineffective in responding to requests. I am constantly surprised that many businessmen I speak to don't seem to have similar priorities."

HENRIETTA LAKE

□ Application forms for Entrepreneur of the Year are available on 0845-604 1012. Entrepreneurs can nominate themselves or be nominated. Applications must be in by April 30.

LINKS  
WEBSITE: www.boy.co.uk

IN BUSINESS IS EDITED BY HENRIETTA LAKE  
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CHANGING TIMES





## NEWS

## Passenger train hit in Nato raid

Nato admitted last night that a missile attack on a railway bridge south of Belgrade had struck a passenger train. At least nine people were reported to have been killed and another 16 injured.

The Yugoslav Army and local authorities in Serbia searched for survivors amid the wreckage of the train, which was hit in a ravine near the Macedonian border. "We deeply regret any loss of life," a Nato official said. Reports, pages 1, 47

## Truck drivers to escalate protest

Lorry drivers threatened fresh disruption after a nationwide protest which jammed motorways and roads in six city centres. Growing anger among lorry drivers over tax rises prompted the second major protest in three weeks, with farmers and taxi drivers joining the demonstration in some areas. Pages 1, 2

## IRA 'tested missiles'

The British and Irish governments today resume their last-ditch effort to save the Good Friday accord with Unionists claiming the case for disarmament has been strengthened by new evidence that the IRA has tested surface-to-air missiles. Page 2

## Kwik-Fit in £1bn deal

Only two days ago, Sir Tom Farmer was listed in *The Sunday Times* Rich List as the 315th wealthiest man in Britain. By lunchtime yesterday he had leapfrogged at least 50 places by selling his Kwik-Fit tyre and exhaust chain to the Ford motor company in a £1 billion deal. Page 3

## Tapioa cancer quest

The plant from which tapioa pudding is made may hold the key to a powerful anti-cancer cure. Genes isolated from the plant have been used successfully to eradicate brain tumours in laboratory rats. Page 9

## Doctor 'left scene'

A village GP left the scene of an attempted suicide, in which a man stabbed himself in the throat, telling relatives to stanch the blood, the General Medical Council was told. Page 9

## Fish ban to aid birds

North Sea sand eel fishing is facing a seasonal ban because of a dramatic decline in birdlife at key nesting sites. Page 10

## Prodi hails the perk-free express

Romano Prodi, the incoming President of the European Commission, arrived at Downing Street in a London taxi cab. The frugality of Signor Prodi, in London for talks on Europe, was further illustrated by his choice of a £351 one-way business-class British Airways flight from Rome to Gatwick, and his £10.20 ticket to Victoria on the Gatwick Express. Page 12

## Did Jesus eat meat?

The question of whether Christ was a vegetarian is stirring debate among Americans after the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) recruited Jesus in a campaign to stop the slaughter of animals. Page 11

## SNP fails in Scotland

Labour believes an outright majority in the Scottish parliament is now within its grasp after a disastrous election campaign performance by the Scottish National Party. Ministers were "cook-a-boo" over a series of devastating poll results for the SNP leader Alex Salmond. Page 12

## Welsh power push

Wales should aim for its own tax-raising and law-making powers, Plaid Cymru said at the launch of its manifesto for the Welsh assembly. Page 12

## Bankruptcy boom

Increasing numbers of young people are declaring themselves bankrupt after building up thousands of pounds of debt on credit cards and in student loans, according to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Page 13

## German train crash

Germany's reputation as a nation of engineering giants was seriously damaged when one of the world's safest trains crashed, killing three people and leaving 59 others badly injured. Page 15



A 16th-century prayer book is among 250 items in the Rothschild art collection soon to be auctioned at Christie's. Looted by the Nazis, the £25 million collection was only recently returned by the Austrian Government but is for sale because the family cannot afford the upkeep

## Goldman payout

The 11 most senior directors of Goldman Sachs are to share a total of \$1.3 billion (£800 million) under the terms of the Wall Street investment bank's flotation. Page 27

## Freemove float

Dixons said it was considering a stock market flotation of a minority stake in its free Internet service provider. Page 27

## Rate cuts

Halifax and Abbey National cut their mortgage rates by 0.1 per cent following the decision by the Bank of England to cut interest rates by 0.25 per cent. Page 27

## Markets

The FTSE 100 index fell 31.6 points to 6441.2. The pound rose 0.92 cents to \$1.6150 but fell 0.07p against the euro to 67.18p. The sterling index rose to 102.7 from 102.6. Page 30

## Sport on television

The Grand National, Five Nations rugby union and Formula One to attract the biggest audience of the weekend's plethora of leading sporting events. Page 32

## Rugby union

After a thrilling final Five Nations Championship, David Hand has selected a team from the tournament's most shining performers. Page 30

## Cricket

The final county championship season, before the competition makes one of its biggest transformations and is split into two divisions, begins today. Page 49

## Football

Sunderland and Fulham, who may clinch promotion from their respective divisions tonight, have followed contrasting routes to success. Page 47



## Big Screen USA

The hippest, hottest new Hollywood release is *Go*, a taut, funny, bad-attitude movie from Doug Liman that American critics have dubbed *Pulp Fiction* Lite. Page 34

## Treasure hunt

Many museums and art galleries are beginning an exhaustive trawl through their collections for works plundered by Hitler's henchmen. Page 35

## Camp contender

In North London the energetic self-parodying musical *Escape From Pterodactyl Island* makes its bid for the Rocky Horror cult show crown. Page 36

## Festival fare

Rodney Milnes reports from Berlin on the city's ten-day feast of music-making, the Festspiel; plus the best of the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. Page 36

## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

## ■ INTERFACE

Is the new *Civilisation* game about to conquer the world?

## ■ HOMES

Homeowners could be liable for clearing up if their homes are built on contaminated land

## Pet loves

Psychologists have spent years proving what animal-lovers have always known — looking after a pet is therapeutic. Page 16

## What's cooking

What happens when some of the country's best chefs get together for the annual dinner in honour of those who have won a Michelin star? Page 17

## Trading places

For many people, temp agencies will be the nearest thing they encounter to a permanent employer. Page 17

## Trends

How does outsourcing work? A special report looks at a practice increasingly catching on with big business. Pages 22, 23

## Net losses

Cybercrime is becoming a huge problem around the world but the US has tackled it only on a national basis. It's time for an international approach. Page 39

## Throughout the war in Yugoslavia

The Serb media has been promoting the lie that Serb forces have only been policing a ruthless insurgency in Kosovo and Nato's intervention is unwarranted. Now Steve Pratt, the Care Australia aid worker who, with his colleague Peter Wallace, went missing in Yugoslavia on March 31, has been enlisted to the effort. Mr Pratt must not become a martyr to humanitarianism. *The Sydney Morning Herald*

## RADIO &amp; TV

Review: Peter Barnard is enchanted by Tony Marchant's no-nonsense adaptation of Dickens's *Great Expectations* (BBC2) Preview: How two aviators flew round the world in the *Breitling Orbiter 3* hot air balloon. *The Mission* (BBC1, 10.35pm). Pages 50, 51

## Opinion

## War drums on the hill

An influential group of Congressmen is arguing that the Administration should never, for political as well as military reasons, have emboldened Mr Milosevic by ruling out the use of ground forces, and that the President should admit this now and rapidly mobilise Nato forces. Page 19

## A weaker tomorrow

Instead of making Europe's banks more competitive, today's take-overs are locking in inefficiency. This is not only foolhardy but dangerous. Today's mergers may succeed only in weakening the banking system tomorrow. Page 19

## Keep on trucking

The action of Britain's lorry drivers will win few allies, but their case is persuasive. They should now pursue it with vigour, not from their cabs but around the negotiating table. Page 19

## VANORA BENNETT

The most practical reason not to arm the KLA stems not from what it is, but what it is not — militarily effective. Page 18

## LIBBY PURVES

If we've really got to a situation where nobody speaks for Ousted except Chris Woodhead... why, we are in a bad way, and something must be done. Page 18

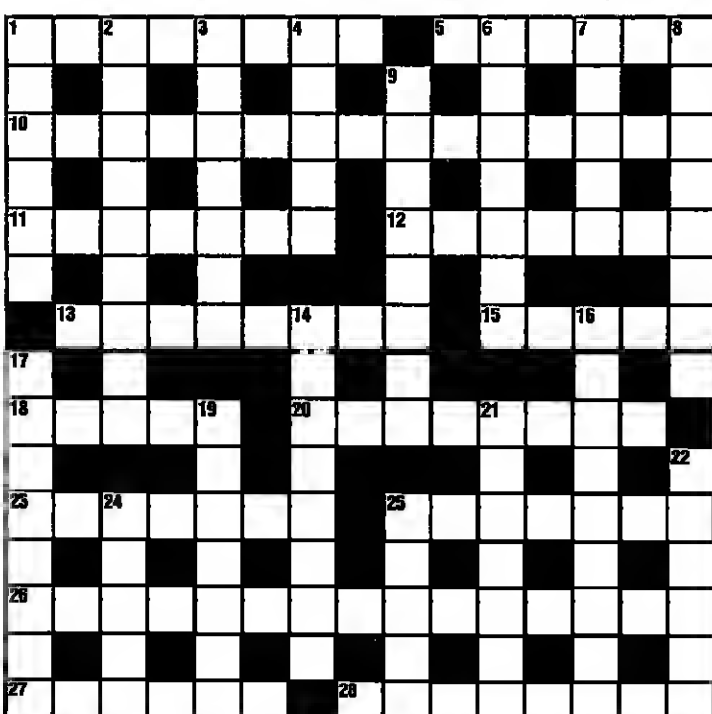
## MICHAEL GOVE

They might have been singing *Flower of Scotland* in the Stade de France on Saturday but Rule, Britannia has secured the applause on the hustings. Page 18

## Mary Lutyens, writer: Prof Margaret Jefferys, medical sociologist: Olive Shapley, broadcaster. Page 21

## UN and Nato's roles in the Balkans: Lords reform: "Spiral" addition to V&amp;A: lowering of age of consent: British wildlife protection: mobile phone hazards: young letter writers. Page 19

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,076



- ACROSS
- Foreign soldier joining me in crack military force (8).
  - Article about spies — it's a plant (6).
  - Comprehensive attention that's given to thefts? (8).
  - Straight approach possible from this? (7).
  - Performed song about Spanish drink? (7).
  - Female supporter (8).
  - Penny and others make a bit of a bloomer (5).
  - Strength of the opponents playing bridge (5).
  - Deal with damage to get a firm hold (8).
  - Accountant reduced cost — fancy that! (7).
- DOWN
- Hero's partner in the rowing club (7).
  - Decisive treatment of animals that should get rid of moles (8, 7).
  - A judge's work can be irksome (6).
  - For growing fruit, it's under glass or heated with extra energy (8).
  - Brush off polish again? (6).
  - Be moved by another body, finding it at burial-place outside (9).
  - Let others go through in advance (4, 3).
  - Refusal to accept double time is smart (5).
  - Make tidy profit (5, 2).
  - Position of authority in French airline (5).
  - Open to suggestions, allow a maiden to go first (8).
  - Reckon Tory party is on the right (8).
  - Leading thug liable to fall over (3, 5).
  - International initiative to assess road safety etc. (4, 5).
  - Kill farm animals, initially used for making soup (8).
  - Bird regularly taking cheese (7).
  - Encourage to try and catch up (7).
  - Loading goods into cart can be tedious (6).
  - Lifted up to throw, being aggressive (5).
  - Mellors, for one, given pound extra (5).

**Solution to Puzzle No 21,075**

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# Big screen USA

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BUSINESS • LAW • ARTS • SPORT • TELEVISION

# THE TIMES

## In search of Nazi plunder

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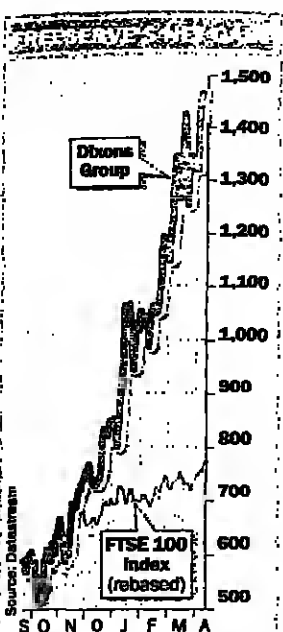
BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY APRIL 13 1999

Listing would give Britain its first blue-chip Internet stock

# Dixons looks at Freeserve float

BY CHRIS AYRES



BRITAIN could soon get its first ever blue-chip Internet stock. Dixons Group said yesterday that it had appointed financial advisers to look into a multi-billion pound float of its Freeserve subsidiary.

The retail chain, which has seen its stock market value rise by more than £4.1 billion since launching Freeserve six months ago, will also announce today the appointment of a chief executive to run the free Internet access service. The appointment is understood to be internal.

Dixons told the Stock Exchange yesterday that it had appointed Credit Suisse First Boston and Cazenove & Co to "explore the strategic alternatives available" to Freeserve.

It added that it wanted "to enable Freeserve to realise its full potential and to optimise the value of Freeserve for Dixons shareholders, including a potential initial public offering of a minority interest in Freeserve."

## DISNEY MAY SPIN OFF WEB ASSETS

WALT DISNEY, the entertainment group, is said to be considering a spin-off of its Internet interests, joining a growing list of "traditional" companies that feel their share values do not reflect the high-tech businesses nurtured within.

Alongside its more established film-making and leisure interests, Disney provides a variety of Internet

services, including websites for children, news from ABC, the television network, and online shopping.

The jewel in its multimedia crown, however, is the Go Network Internet portal that it set up with Infoseek, the search engine company. Go provides a similar service to Yahoo!, acting as a navigational aid for Internet users, without bias towards Disney sites.

Disney owns 43 per cent of Infoseek. It bought the stake for \$70 million plus its share in Starwave, the website design company.

A Disney spokeswoman refused to comment, but any floatation of the assets on Wall Street would be eagerly awaited by traders who can turn Internet companies into multibillion-dollar businesses almost overnight.

insisted that it was "early days", but conceded that Dixons did not need more cash.

"We already have a significant valuation of Freeserve in our share price, but how much that is we don't know. Freeserve is likely to attract a different kind of investor. But there's been no pressure from shareholders [to float Freeserve] at all."

Technology analysts said that Dixons could be valued in two ways: as a so-called "Internet portal" such as Yahoo!, or as an Internet service provider, such as America Online (AOL).

However, analysts argue that because Freeserve does not charge a subscription fee, it cannot be compared directly with AOL, and because it takes a cut of all telephone calls to its service, it cannot be compared directly with Yahoo! Internet service providers tend to be valued according to subscriber numbers, while portals tend to be valued according to how many visitors they attract to their sites, and for how long.

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## Anatole Kaletsky

Why lessons of the late Eighties must not be forgotten

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FTSE 100	3,641.2	(-31.8)
FTSE All Share	2,958.38	(-12.43)
Nikkei	10,607.40	(-348.23)
Dow Jones	10,008.36	(-35.52)
S&P Composite	1,345.24	(-3.11)

Federal Funds	4 1/2%	(4.5%)
Long bond	9 7/8%	(9.875%)
Yield	5.44%	(5.46%)

3-month interest	5 1/4%	(5.375%)
6-month interest	5 1/2%	(5.5%)
12-month interest	5 3/4%	(5.625%)

London	1.6132	(1.6077)
New York	1.6148	(1.6057)
Frankfurt	1.4886	(1.4800)
Paris	1.2815	(1.2815)
Yen	198.99	(194.43)
S index	702.7	(102.6)

London	1.0843	(1.0785)
New York	1.4790	(1.4625)
Frankfurt	1.2815	(1.2815)
Paris	1.082	(1.080)

London	528.55	(528.55)
New York	528.55	(528.55)
Frankfurt	528.55	(528.55)
Paris	528.55	(528.55)

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## Goldman chiefs set to share £800m in flotation

BY CAROLINE MERRELL, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE 11 most senior directors of Goldman Sachs are to share a total of \$1.3 billion (£800 million) under the terms of the Wall Street investment bank's flotation revealed yesterday.

Of Goldman's most senior executives, the bank's prospectus shows that Hank Paulson, co-chairman, who has been a partner of the bank for 17 years, will receive shares worth \$207 million. John Thornton, co-chief operating officer, who has been a partner for 11 years, will receive shares worth \$150 million. Robert Hurst, vice-chairman, will receive shares worth \$194 million, while John Thain, co-chief operating officer, will receive shares worth \$155 million.

Outside of the top executives, 210 other partners will share about \$10 billion of stock, giving each an average payout of \$48 million. Gavin Davies, the bank's chief economist in London is expected to get \$40 million. The bank has 46 partners based in London.

Goldman also confirmed the appointment of Sir John Browne, chief executive of BP Amoco, and James Johnson, the former head of Fannie Mae, as non-executive directors. The investment bank, the last large partnership on Wall Street, is expected to float at the beginning of May with a price of \$45 to \$55 a share valuing the entire firm at about \$23.5 billion. Originally the bank was expected to float at about \$40 to \$50 a share.

All of Goldman's 13,000 staff will get shares. Their individual entitlements will be equivalent to about half of last year's salary plus bonus. The total amount allocated to employees will be about \$5 billion, or 21.5 per cent of share capital.

Commentary, page 29

## Token rate cut made by lenders

BY SUSAN EMMETT AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

LEADING mortgage lenders announced yesterday that they would pass on to borrowers less than half of the interest rate cut made last week by the Bank of England — and gave warning that any further falls were unlikely.

Halifax, Britain's largest lender, was first to reduce its rate by just 0.1 per cent. This compares with the 0.25 per cent cut announced last week by the Bank of England.

The Halifax decision quickly forced other lenders to take action with Abbey National, its closest rival as well as the Northern Rock and Cheltenham & Gloucester, also announcing rate reductions.

None of the lenders passed on the full quarter point cut. Halifax said it needed to consider the needs of savers. Savers have been hit hard by the rapid decline in base rates, which has resulted in many instant access accounts paying rates that are less than inflation.

The move brings Halifax's mortgage rate down to 6.85 per cent, saving borrowers with a £50,000 repayment mortgage only about £3 a month.

Simon Tyler of Chase de Vere Mortgage Management, said: "In financial terms the cut means very little. But it's all about sentiment. There

would be too much of a potential backlash if there had not been a move."

Other mortgage experts were surprised lenders cut rates by such a token amount given the administration costs of rate changes.

Ray Boulger, a mortgage expert at John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said: "Halifax may have been trying to put pressure on lenders with higher rates, in which case the strategy has worked."

The City is divided on whether there will be any further rate reductions, with many analysts pointing to growing evidence that the economy is heading for a "soft landing".

This view was backed up by the March British Retail Consortium monthly sales monitor, which showed that like-for-like high street sales were 3.9 per cent higher than in the same month last year. However, the BRC cautioned the figures were boosted by the early Easter and if the holiday was stripped out, sales grew by a more modest 0.9 per cent.

The separate March CBI financial services sector survey also showed an increase in business volumes during the past three months with forward expectations at their highest level for a year.



John Ritblat, chairman of British Land, who pursued the Broadgate Estate long and hard

## British Land to securitise Broadgate

BY CARL MORTSHED

BRITISH LAND is to launch the largest ever securitised property funding package with a £1.54 billion bond offering backed by the rental income of the Broadgate Estate.

The fundraising will enable British Land to repay more expensive bank borrowings taken on to acquire the 30-acre City development near Liverpool Street station and cut the company's interest payments.

The bond offering is expected to carry a coupon in "the low 6 per cent range" and will reduce British Land's average borrowing cost from 8.49 per cent to about 7.4 per cent. The bonds are secured by £100 million of income from ring-fenced British Land subsidiaries that own the 13 properties comprising the 3.7 million sq ft estate.

The Broadgate Estate, which was originally developed by Stuart Lipton and Godfrey Bradman, was pursued long and hard by John Ritblat, chairman of British Land. Mr Ritblat won a battle in March 1995 to takeover the ailing Stanhope Properties, led by Mr Lipton.

The deal delivered a half share in Broadgate Properties and British Land later struck a deal with the receivers of Rosehaugh, Godfrey Bradman's insolvent company, to secure the other half of the company.

Temps, page 30

## Kwik-Fit to accelerate expansion within Ford

THE Ford Motor Company is to buy Kwik-Fit, the car repair chain for just over £1 billion (Sarah Cunningham writes). Ford's offer of \$60p per share has been accepted by Kwik-Fit directors. Sir Tom Farmer, founder, chairman and chief executive, will pick up some £77.3 million from the sale of his 13.6 million shares.

The US motor group, the world's second largest, whose brands include Ford, Lincoln, Mazda, Jaguar and Aston Martin, plans to accelerate

Kwik-Fit's expansion across Europe. Jacques Nasser, president and chief executive of Ford, said: "The acquisition of Kwik-Fit is an important step towards Ford's goal to become the world's leading consumer company that provides automotive products and services through world class brands."

Earlier this year Ford bought Volvo's car division in a near £4 billion deal.

Sir Tom, who founded the business in 1971, will continue to run Kwik-Fit, which employs 9,500 people, from within Ford. He said: "This provides us with a tremendous opportunity to complement Ford's global strategy and expand the Kwik-Fit brand as widely as possible."

The business includes 644 Kwik-Fit outlets in Great Britain and Ireland, a growing motor insurance side, a chain of 143 Tyre Plus centres and 71 Apple Car Clinics.

Family money, page 3  
Commentary, page 29

## Sainsbury axe falls

J Sainsbury yesterday confirmed that it is closing the headquarters of Savacentre, its hypermarket business.

Some 85 of the Wokingham-based staff will be relocated to the group's central London headquarters, but 230 face redundancy. Sainsbury said it expects to save £9 million a year from the closure from next year. This year's saving will be about £1 million. Sainsbury is expected to say on Friday that it will shed 350 senior staff at its Stamford Street head office. Commentary, page 29

## Wray stands down as Forest chairman

NIGEL WRAY, the property tycoon, is limping away from the chairmanship of Nottingham Forest, the team at the bottom of football's Premier League, nursing a £1.1 million loss (Jason Nispe writes).

The move follows criticism from fans over Mr Wray's refusal to come up with extra funds to help Forest. Local anger has been vented at Mr Wray's decision to invest a further £5 million in Saracens, the rugby union side he owns. As part of the Saracens deal, Mr Wray wants to buy the freehold of Vicarage Road, the

ground Saracens shares with Watford, the first division football club. This deal could have breached the rules on football club ownership had Mr Wray stayed on at Forest.

He is standing aside in favour of Eric Barnes, the founder of Experian, the information group owned by GUS. Mr Barnes is buying a 5.7 per cent stake in Forest from Mr Wray, who is also selling another 5.7 per cent to Phil Soar, Forest's chief executive. This will cut Mr Wray's stake to 9.1 per cent and leave him with a £1.1 million loss on the shares he sold.

THE depressed gold price showed signs of revival yesterday, with traders taking heed of President Yeltsin's threats to spark a world war and the release of figures showing a record number of short trading positions (Paul Armstrong writes). The price of bullion climbed to a high on the day of \$284.50 an ounce, up from the London afternoon fix price of \$280.60 per oz. on Friday. It closed at \$283.80 per oz.

Kamal Nagvi, a metals analyst with Macquarie Bank, said Mr Yeltsin's war warnings on Friday pushed the price through the \$282 per oz resistance level. He said the price was strengthened further by data showing the number of net outstanding short positions stood at 88,363oz, its highest level since the data became available in 1996.

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# Heineken tipped as buyer for Spanish brewer

By DOMINIC WALSH

HEINEKEN, the Dutch brewing company, is being tipped as the frontrunner in the auction for Cruzcampo, the Spanish brewer put up for sale by Diageo with an estimated price tag of between £400 million and £500 million.

Diageo, whose Guinness arm has owned Cruzcampo since 1991, confirmed yesterday that it has decided to test the market "in response to recent approaches by potential pur-

chasers". It has appointed Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, to advise on the process. However, the food and drink group played down recent suggestions in the Spanish press that a sale to Heineken was a done deal and said it would only sell at the right price. "We're just at the start of the process," said a source close to Diageo. "It will be several weeks before any decision is made."

Carlsberg of Denmark, Anheuser-Busch of the US and South African Breweries are also being seen as possible bidders for the

business, which is forecast to make a profit this year of about £35 million. Last year its turnover was £300 million. Guinness paid £530 million for its 89 per cent stake in Cruzcampo as part of a move to expand its stout-based brewing business into lager. Although it is still the market leader, with 25 per cent of the Spanish market, it has not proved one of its better investments. Cruzcampo has suffered from a combination of recession and intense competition, and Diageo has made no secret of its desire to seek an exit.

Although Carlsberg owns 10 per cent of Cruzcampo, it is considered a less likely bidder than Heineken, which owns 71.3 per cent of El Agulla, one of Cruzcampo's biggest rivals. Heineken has for some time expressed a desire to increase its Spanish presence, although it is also thought to be eyeing Mahou, another big Iberian brewer. A spokesman for Heineken described suggestions of its interest in Cruzcampo as "rumour", but he confirmed: "We are interested in enlarging our activities in Spain."

## Welsh plea for rethink on water investment

By ROBERT LEA

WELSH WATER has called for a rethink of the Government's water quality improvement programme, saying the increase in its investment obligations means it is being forced to spend nearly three times as much per customer as Thames Water will spend on Londoners.

Publishing its strategic business plan up to 2005, Welsh Water, part of the quoted multi-utility Hyder, yesterday said that its spend over five years will have to rise by 36 per cent to £1.7 billion.

Ofwat, the water regulator, is policing government demands for the privatised water companies to improve the quality of drinking water and clean up rivers and the environment. Graham Hawker, chief executive of Welsh Water, said: "Wales is necessarily a high-cost area in which to run a water and sewerage business be-

cause of its small population spread in a relatively large geographical area.

"As an example of our higher costs, our capital investment plan compares with £2.5 billion planned by Thames, which equates to investment of £500 per customer in London compared with £1,400 per customer in Wales.

"As a result, instead of staying stable, bills will have to rise to pay for the increase in investment. We are not persuaded that this is the right balance and we have written to ministers suggesting that they consider options to rephase part of the investment programme until after 2005 to reduce the impact on future prices."

In an open letter to Ofwat, Mr Hawker said: "It is essential that there is an open and informed debate on the issues over the months ahead."

While the bills of Welsh Water customers are expected to rise by 3.5 per cent, North West Water yesterday said its bills will be going up by 5.8 per cent a year, or £13 per household.

NW Water, part of United Utilities, said it is being required to spend £3.7 billion, more than double the figure previously expected and accounting for a quarter of all the spend to improve quality demanded by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

Anglian Water said its bills will be going up by about £40 over the next five years as a result of its programme. This is against a £12 cut for customers over the same period if the company was to keep to current service levels.

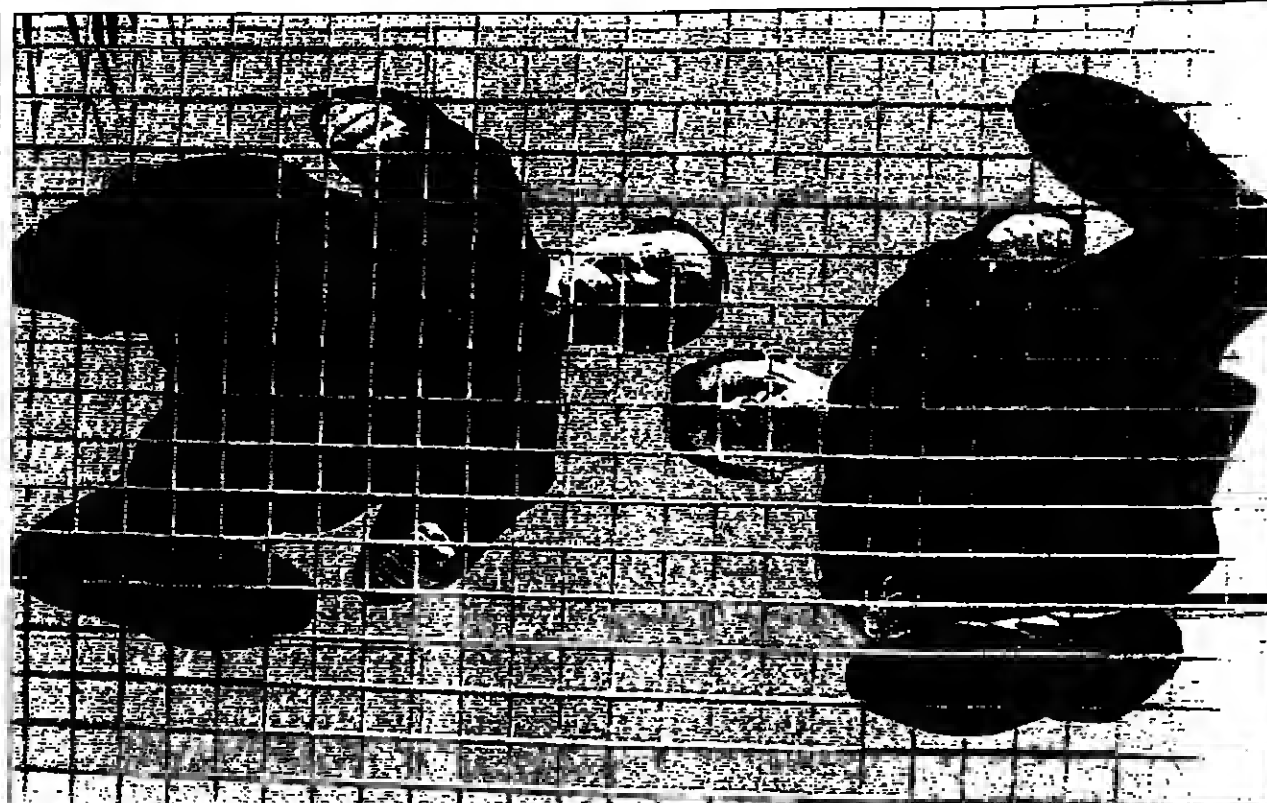
Yorkshire Water said that its £1.7 billion spending plan will mean a rise of 2.5 per cent for customers, or £6 per household.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	2.64	Swiss Sfr	2.46
Austria Sch	13.76	Switzerland Sfr	2.46
Belgium Fl	63.20	Thailand Baht	55.24
Canada Cdn	2.53	US Dollar	1.61
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9048	Yen	163.31
Denmark Kr	11.65		
Egypt £	5.72		
Finland Mark	9.40		
France Fr	10.33		
Germany DM	3.073		
Greece Dr	336		
Hong Kong \$	13.34		
Iceland Krona	130		
Indonesia Rp	1773		
Israel Sh	6.87		
Italy Lit	2036		
Japan Yen	109.17		
Malta Lm	0.615		
Netherlands Gld	3.468		
New Zealand \$	3.12		
Norway Kr	13.07		
Portugal Esc	330.75		
S Africa R	10.90		
Spain Ptas	253.01		
Sweden Kr	14.44		
Switzerland Fr	2.539		
Taiwan Nt	68.2429		
UK £	1.72		

Notes: For small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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John Steinbrecher, left, Electronics Boutique's chief executive, with Martin Long, finance director, yesterday

## Game set and match for EB

By CHRIS AYRES

NEIL TAYLOR, chairman of Game, the chain of specialist computer games shops, is set to receive a £22 million jackpot after the company accepted a takeover offer from the rival Electronics Boutique (EB).

Game is valued at £99.2 million by the 134.3p-a-share offer, of which 41.7p is in cash and 57.5p is in new EB shares. EB, which is well up both debt and new shares to fund the acquisition, said that the deal would give it a "stronger base from which to move into Europe".

Mr Taylor's windfall comes after his sale of £38 million worth of Games shares at the company's flotation last June, at 200p each. Trading problems have since caused Game shares to halve in value, before rising to 126p on takeover speculation.

Game's acceptance of EB's offer surprised many in the City, who had expected Mr Taylor to oppose any deal that valued the company at below 200p a share. However, EB yesterday said that it would keep the Game brand, and

continue to open Game stores. The combined group will have a total of 268 stores (with 182 trading under EB's brand) and estimated full-year sales of £242 million. Profits are expected to be £23 million.

Mr Taylor will leave Game immediately, and its other senior directors will be put on short-term contracts to oversee integration of the two companies. They are not expected to stay in the long term.

John Steinbrecher, EB's chief executive, said: "The combination with Game will

significantly strengthen our UK presence, enable us to develop a second brand and position us well to achieve our planned expansion into continental Europe."

EB yesterday reported almost doubled pre-tax profits for the year to January 31, up from £8 million to £15.3 million on sales 28 per cent higher at £159 million. For the first time in five years, EB will pay both an interim and a final dividend, making a 1.1p total.

Tempus, page 30

## European Leisure hits at bidder's accounting

By DOMINIC WALSH

EUROPEAN LEISURE, the snooker hall and nightclub operator, yesterday stepped up its efforts to escape from a hostile bid from Waterfall Holdings by calling for the dismissal of Ernst & Young as its rival's auditor.

European, which has a 24 per cent stake in Waterfall, said that it intended to use its holding to requisition an extraordinary general meeting to consider the group's accounting practices. In particular, it is questioning "an undisclosed one-off amount" of £300,000 in 1998 profits, received as part of a renegotiated beer supply contract.

However, Waterfall immediately rejected the claims as "irrelevant and immaterial", arguing that the £300,000 payment had been discussed by the two sides at a meeting in February and disclosed in detail in a report from its brokers, WestLB Panmure, last September. It also confirmed its "support for, and total confidence in, Ernst & Young".

Waterfall launched its all-share offer, currently worth 112p a share, after European's announcement last month that it was accepting a paper bid from Allied Leisure, the Burger King restaurants and

ten-pin bowling group, currently valued at 89p a share. European's share price was unchanged last night at 91p, giving it a market capitalisation of £32.3 million.

Some analysts believe that the companies should put aside their differences and discuss a three-way merger.

"It's about time some heads were knocked together," said one analyst. "Everybody accepts the need for consolidation, and one way or another these three are eventually going to end up in bed together. They should do it now and stop wasting money slinging mud at each other."

## Medeva shares hit by US setback

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES of Medeva fell 10 per cent yesterday after the US Food and Drug Administration refused to accept the company's initial licensing submission for Hepagene, the hepatitis B vaccine that is the most important product in its pipeline.

The FDA's numerous concerns included the number of people who took part in Medeva's safety trial and the manufacturing process.

In a statement, Medeva said: "The FDA also requires further information on protocols relating to validation of equipment, processes and systems."

Shares of Medeva, struggling with falling profits because of tumbling sales of its biggest-selling drug, slid from 121p to 108p, against a 12-month high of 183p. Two years ago, the shares were changing hands at 330p.

A spokeswoman said the FDA's move was only "half a step backwards". European regulators have already accepted a similar filing on Hepagene for review.

Medeva is seeking to clarify the problems with the FDA and intends to publish an update next month. Bill Bogie, chief executive, said he remained confident in Hepagene's merits as a vaccine.

Hepatitis B is a potentially fatal liver disease that affects more than 300 million people, though mostly in South-East Asia. Medeva hopes to develop Hepagene as a treatment as well as a vaccine.

## Electra in disposal talks

ELECTRA Investment Trust, the venture capital fund currently embroiled in a bitter £1.3 billion bid battle with rival fund 3i, said yesterday that it is in discussions to sell two of its unquoted investments (Robert Cole writes).

Electra owns 66.7 per cent of PHS, a supplier of wash-room products and said it has "received expressions of interest from a number of potential purchasers and has received an indicative offer in excess of the £80 million". It is also in talks to dispose of WAP Reingungssysteme, a German maker of cleaning equipment.

Shares in Electra were unchanged at 724p yesterday but 3i fell 27p to 649p.

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Michael Stoddart, chairman of Electra Investment Trust

## Tessa deadline dismay at L&G

By FRAN LITTLEWOOD

HUNDREDS of investors attempting to take out a last-minute Tessa with Legal & General have been left in limbo after a mailing fiasco which is being blamed on the Post Office. L&G claims to have lost £1 million of business in the foul-up.

About 800 investors who posted their Tessa applications before the end of the financial year — ahead of the final deadline for Tessa — have been left in limbo after discovering that their applications failed to make it to L&G on time.

An L&G spokeswoman said that the financial services group has set up a meet-

ing with the Post Office to find out what went wrong. "We are hugely disappointed because we do not want to turn away business," she said. She denied that L&G had failed to process the applications in time to meet the deadline.

L&G contacted the Inland Revenue to ask for the deadline to be extended in the light of the delay, but was refused. A Revenue spokeswoman said: "The position is that if you did not get your application in by the deadline, then it would not be accepted by the Revenue." She added that the Revenue was taking a hard line with investors who waited until the last minute.

In an attempt to placate angry investors,

L&G has offered those whose applications were rejected an extra 0.5 per cent interest on a cash Isa until the end of the year.

The L&G Tessa offered a very attractive rate of 6.1 per cent on a minimum investment of £1 and had headed up a number of best-buy investment tables in the run-up to the Tessa deadline.

Mark Dampier, head of research at the independent financial adviser Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "People always leave it until the last minute. If you apply by post there is always going to be that danger." He added that he expects a number of similar cases to emerge over the coming weeks.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## GEC unveils £136m Marconi contracts

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY yesterday announced that Marconi Communications, its telecommunications equipment division, has won two contracts worth £136 million. In the bigger contract, Romania has placed a £100 million order for an integrated military communications system. The package, which includes 400 fixed and transportable radio communications systems, is due for completion in 2002. Marconi said that some of the equipment, which is already used by military forces in France, Canada and Italy, would be built in Romania under a technology licensing agreement.

Marconi will also supply a communications package worth £36 million to Bulgaria's defence ministry. The purchase is part of a programme to make Bulgaria's systems compatible with those used by Nato. Marconi plans to start delivering the system in September. It is to be fully operational by 2001.

## Telecom Italia ahead

SHARES in Telecom Italia gained 6 per cent as the market assessed the increased chances of a successful takeover of the Italian telephone utility. Telecom shares ended just under £10 (£6.71p), against Olivetti's £11.50 offer, and speculation continued that a white knight might come to Telecom's aid after the collapse of its defence strategy. Analysts reckon the Italian Government would bar a full bid from a foreign firm, but an alliance with a share swap might save the company from Olivetti.

## PizzaExpress reward

PIZZAEXPRESS yesterday proved that it is not only boardroom "fat cats" who can make big profits from share options. About ten restaurant managers, warehouse supervisors and other managers below board level are sitting on a paper profit of £867,000 after exercising 130,000 options at either 128p or 217p a share. PizzaExpress shares were 870p last night. A restaurant manager exercising the standard amount of 10,000 options at the higher figure would be sitting on a £65,300 profit.

## E-commerce on rise

A MORI survey for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award programme has revealed that 38 per cent of British entrepreneurs are already engaged in e-commerce. Of the 60 per cent yet to embrace the online economy, more than half plan to introduce e-commerce strategies over the next two years, the survey found. In the financial services and high-technology sectors more than 79 per cent say they will be buying and selling online within three years.

## US deal for Carclo

CARCLO Engineering Group, the technical plastics company, has agreed to pay \$25 million (£15.5 million) for Carrera Corporation, a US company that makes injection mouldings for the vehicle, electronics and medical industries. Carrera reported earnings before interest and tax of \$2 million in the year to September 30 from sales of \$27.2 million. Carclo also announced that it would stop making flat wire products and reduce production of round wire goods.

## Slough in £45m sales

SLOUGH ESTATES, the owner of industrial and commercial properties, has realised £45 million from the sale of nine buildings. The deal was part of Slough's plan to sell non-core assets inherited through the £277 million takeover of Bilton. The company hopes to realise £100 million from the disposal programme. Derek Wilson, Slough's chief executive, said that the sales were completed at book values and would allow resources to be focused on its core industrial portfolio.

## Dragons takes flight

SHARES of Dragons Health Clubs gained 9p to 199p yesterday after the AIM-listed fitness club operator reported a sharp jump in half-year profits. Pre-tax profits in the six months to January 31 rose 72 per cent to £600,000 from turnover 39 per cent higher at £4.64 million. Earnings per share reached 4.6p (3.3p) and the interim dividend is 1.05p (0.95p). Membership over the past 12 months has grown 30 per cent to 21,000 and the group is negotiating further acquisitions.

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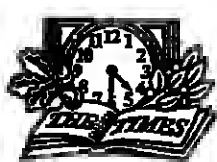
Takeover talks boost Laporte

Confident...  
Hurdle...  
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Early critical over...  
backers



# The chief executive's new clothes



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Terry Leahy and his team at Tesco must be petrified. Just when it seemed that they had their leadership of the grocery market tied up, J Sainsbury is fighting back. No longer, it seems, is Dino Adriano going to allow Sainsbury's market share to ebb away, taking the group's share price. No, the Sainsbury chief executive has a plan: he is spending up to £100 million on a new corporate identity for the group.

This news will clearly take the gloss off the buoyant figures to be announced by Tesco today. The firm's sales growth is reckoned to be more than twice that of Sainsbury, but a new logo and a brighter staff uniform could soon change that.

There again, if the new look is as effective as Sainsbury's recent advertising campaign, it could simply amount to throwing money away. The chances are that when Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, the last chairman but one of the group, makes his regular sorties into the Stamford Street headquarters, he voices a degree of scepticism over the power of the design consultancy on which so much now seems to depend.

Sainsbury opted for a change of management style after Lord John's all-powerful grip on the business was removed. But where is the substance? Dino Adriano has axed a couple of directors, including finance director Rosemary Thorne, and he is now preparing to prune a few

jobs from head office. Yet those moves, even when accompanied by something as drastic as abandoning the dingy brown livery, will not be enough to reinvigorate a company which looks increasingly to have lost its way.

Industry observers believe that the scale of the problems Sainsbury faces are not yet evident in the figures. They draw parallels with Marks & Spencer, where it was only after the succession row erupted onto the public stage that the full extent of the trading problems became apparent. Customer discontent had been mounting for several seasons at M&S but only now is a new chief executive able to admit the hit that will have on profits.

Investors in J Sainsbury must be fearful of similar, deep damage being inflicted on their business. And since the Sainsbury family still owns more than a third of the company, the members have reason to be worried about more than the family reputation. Sir Timothy Sainsbury, a former Industry Minister, remains a non-executive director but younger Sainsburys have chosen not to make their career in groceries. They must now be questioning whether they want their fortunes to depend on the industry in general or Mr Adriano in

particular. But despite current speculation that they might wish to lessen their holdings in the company, it seems more likely that they might be looking for ways of restoring the bombed out share price, and even suggesting a few to chairman Sir George Bull.

The former Grand Metropolitan chairman has been living up to his non-executive status but a word with Lord John might encourage him to action.

## Ford wants to be the one to trust

Ford is determined to sit-phon more from the motor- ing consumer than new cars ever can. It makes as much sense to add a new dimension by swallowing Kwik-Fit as it did to consolidate its share of the global car market via Volvo. Edinburgh's least likely multinational would become the junior in a stable headed by Ford Credit, which earned \$1.1 billion last year, the only slightly smaller Visteon

parts business and Hertz rentals. Sadly, Ford lacks the courage to sell its own cars to the public.

In Britain, especially, Ford relied too much on the fleet market, which is cutthroat and likely to suffer as ministers ratchet up corporate anti-car policies. Kwik-Fit knows and serves private motorists who cannot afford to write their cars off over three years.

Analysts are rich in praise of Sir Tom Farmer's personal creation. Unusually for the motor business, it has the trust of customers, who have no worries about being ripped off or kept waiting at others' convenience.

Perhaps for that reason, Kwik-Fit is unusually profitable. Imitators have either failed to make the same returns or sold to tyre companies, risking the value-for-money cachet of independence.

As Sir Tom's recent acquisition of a portfolio of units on the Continent showed, there is plenty of scope to roll out this successful formula, notably in America. Why then were Kwik-Fit shares selling at only 16 times earnings,

a heavy discount to the market, before Ford hove up?

One reason may be that Kwik-Fit is seen as a one-man entrepreneurial business. Its hard-driving management style may work only because managers are inspired by one who, like most of them, started by carrying tyres.

The world is littered with such taut businesses that fell apart in the maw of a comfy multinational. Ford wants the boss to keep running. Much may depend on whether Sir Tom, at 58, wants to keep driving expansion or to try something else with his £75 million once contracts allow.

Without independence, Kwik-Fit could become just an outlet for Ford products or an element in global contracts with Ford suppliers. It would then quickly lose its customer franchise.

Competition authorities will want to examine such issues closely. They now see the highly profitable monopolistic position Coca-Cola has built up by controlling marketing, soft-drink bottling and distributions sys-

tems round the world. Both the UK and the European Union are making hostile inquiries into the restrictive agreements between motor manufacturers and supposedly independent dealers.

They ought to greet attempts to tie up other parts of the market with deepest suspicion.

## Spreading expertise a little thinly

As non-executive directorships go, a place on the board of Goldman Sachs is something of a plum. How flattering to be an honorary recruit to the Masters of the Universe team. Sir John Browne clearly found it an offer he could not refuse.

But his decision to say "yes" does raise once more the question of just how far one man's business acumen can be stretched and also how closely linked companies should become with their outside advisers. With Peter Sutherland, head of Goldman's European business, also co-chairman of BP Amoco, the two are now fairly thick.

Sir John has a pretty big day job, as chief executive of the newly formed oil giant BP Amoco. He is prepared to sacrifice one of his existing non-executive posts,

probably DaimlerChrysler, for the joys of joining Goldman, but that will still leave him with Intel and SmithKline Beecham.

When SmithKline was going through the fraught merger negotiations with Glaxo Wellcome, non-executives were called upon to invest many man hours in the eventually abortive deal. One of them, Sir Peter Walters, was simultaneously having to try to sort out the boardroom problems at EMI. Corporate complications do not occur on schedule.

The Association of British Insurers is concerned that some directors are taking on too many non-executive roles, although it has not been brave enough to declare a limit. Sir John, in any case, would be unlikely to have breached it numerically. But the caseload could be tough.

## Memory crash

FORGET computers. They're old-fashioned hardware. With such reassuring thoughts, world stock markets shrugged off yesterday what seemed to be the biggest threat to the high-tech bubble for a while. Instant reaction to Friday's after hours revelations from Compaq, the number one PC manufacturer, was that quarterly profits at half market expectations spelled trouble. Not at all. Compaq was yesterday's story anyway. Investors are only interested in software. Wall Street surged. There's true confidence for you, or perhaps the over confidence that goes before a fall.

# Takeover talks boost Laporte

By PAUL DURMAN

LAPORTE, the specialty chemicals group, was forced to admit yesterday that it was in takeover talks, fuelling a rise of almost 30 per cent in its share price.

The bidder is believed to be Clariant of Switzerland, which at the weekend was reported to be considering an offer of 800p a share. That would value Laporte at almost £1.6 billion.

Laporte, which is being advised by Lazard Brothers, is still trying to agree a deal, but it is thought that it could be ready to make a full announcement later this week. A spokesman for Laporte said: "We certainly have not gone around soliciting offers."

Jim Leng, Laporte's chief executive, is believed to be frustrated by the out-of-favour chemicals sector. Although Laporte's shares reached 879p last year, within months they had slumped to less than 400p. They had recovered to 590p before yesterday's announcement sent them climbing to 762p.

Mr Leng has carried out a

wide-ranging overhaul of Laporte's businesses since taking over from Ken Minton in 1995. Laporte was then a well-regarded company with a strong performance over many years. Mr Leng almost immediately prompted a collapse in the shares when he set about disposing of many of the group's underperforming businesses. By March last year, a third of the group he inherited had been sold or closed, and staff numbers had fallen by 40 per cent.

These changes have caused the return on sales to rise from 11 per cent to 16 per cent, and return on capital to increase from 17.5 per cent to 25 per cent. Last year Laporte expanded through the £611 million acquisition of Inspec, a manufacturer of pharmaceutical intermediates.

Last year it made pre-tax profits of £134 million, helped by a solid performance from its specialty organics division, which makes chemicals used in drugs, agrochemicals and food additives.

## Confident Wardle lifts payout

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

WARDLE STOREYS, the plastics to parachutes company, lifted its interim dividend 8 per cent in anticipation of a "significantly stronger" second half despite flat first-half profits.

Brian Taylor, chief executive, said that while the group's inflatable systems and airborne systems divisions performed ahead of expectations, its technical products division had been hit by the strength of sterling and weaknesses in the automotive market. Profits in the latter division fell 43 per cent to £1.7 million on turnover which last year accounted for more than half of group sales, down 19 per cent to £25 million.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to February 28 fell slightly to £5.3 million (£5.4 million) on sales down 4 per cent to £56 million. Earnings per share are unchanged at 14p. The interim dividend has been raised to 7.5p (7.0p). The shares fell 10p to 410p.

## Christmas cheer for HMV

By ROBERT LEA

HMV MEDIA, the Waterstone's and Dillons bookseller and HMV music retailer, reported yesterday that profits in the Christmas and January quarter grew 20 per cent.

The company, which is expected to be floated perhaps as early as the end of this year, said like-for-like sales in its third quarter to January 23 grew 4.5 per cent. HMV stores at 5.8 per cent outstripped the bookshops, which saw sales rise by just 1.7 per cent.

The company said the improvement came on the back of greater efficiencies flowing through the merger of the businesses — a joint venture between EMI and Tim Waterstone 14 months ago.

Turnover for the nine months is up nearly 6 per cent to £971 million with operating profits more than doubled to £77.6 million. After £46 million of finance charges, pre-tax profits came in at £31.5 million.

## Century critical over bid's early backers

THE DIRECTORS of Century Inns, which last month fell to a hostile £78 million bid by Enterprise Inns, yesterday criticised its institutional shareholders for not giving them a chance to seek a higher offer (Dominic Walsh writes).

Pre-bid support garnered from shareholders such as M&G and Norwich Union let Enterprise strike with 51 per cent of Century in the bag, leaving it powerless to resist. Eric Walters, Century's chairman, who is also a part-

ner in Alchemy, the acquisitive venture capitalist, said that the board had previously received "other indications of interest... which may have realised improved value for shareholders". The support of those shareholders for Enterprise had prevented Century seeking a higher bid from third parties or from Enterprise.

The 499-pub Century yesterday unveiled half-year pre-tax profits up by 8 per cent, to £4.9 million. Up to 40 jobs will be lost after the takeover.



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STOCK MARKET

SAEED SHAH

# Dixons puts morning's pessimism in perspective

LAST week's party, which saw the FTSE and the Dow Jones industrial average hit all-time trading highs, threatened to come crashing down after Compaq, the US computer giant, issued a profits warning on Wall Street after the market closed on Friday.

With this in mind, London opened in pessimistic mood and was down 95.6 points by lunchtime, ahead of the New York opening. In the event, Wall Street decided that Compaq's troubles were isolated and better than expected trading enabled the FTSE to stage a partial recovery in the afternoon to close down 31.6 points at 6,441.2.

Much of this was down to Dixons, which lived up to the afternoon with a 14p rise to £1564 — the biggest gain in the FTSE 100 — with the news that it is considering floating Freeview, its terrestrial service provider.

Many other internet-linked businesses were, however, down on the day. The telecom sector was hit with COLT Telecom down 44p to £12.30, BT down 5p to £10.72 and Cable & Wireless falling 15p to 792p.

Cable & Wireless Communications held its own — up 6p to 775p — on continuing hopes that it will be merged with rival Telewest Communications, which led the general telecoms slide falling 13p to 290p.

Internet provider Easynet fell 25p to 515p, pulled down by both the technology worries and by the prospect of a new internet stock — Freeserve — drawing money away from its shares. But Geo Interactive Media, which provides software to service providers, pulled ahead 12p to 137p.

The playful side of computer technology was also exciting the London market. Computer games retailer Electronics Boutique confirmed its long-awaited bid for rival chain Game. The 134.3p a share offer — valuing game at £99 million — sent Game shares up 5p to 126p. But Electronics Boutique dipped 2p to 81p as the market pondered the cost of its acquisition.

Kwik-Fit provided some early support to the market, with the news of Ford's £1 billion agreed bid. The vehicle repair and maintenance company jumped 109p to 541p. Lex Service, a company not dissimilar to Kwik-Fit, benefited from comparisons, lifting its share price 38p to 469p.



Dave Beasant, the goalkeeper of Nottingham Forest, shares of which slipped 14p to 25p after Nigel Wray resigned

Laporte, the chemicals company, gained 172p to 762p, after it confirmed reports that it is in takeover talks. The predator is thought to be Clariant, the Swiss chemicals company. British Aerospace continued to benefit from the conflict in the Balkans as defence stocks again attracted interest. The shares were 94p dearer at 435p.

AIM-listed Pilot Technolo-

fundamentals, as only five months ago the company issued a profits warning.

Banks also suffered from the early technology-related gloom, which was taken as a general bearish economic indicator. This was compounded in the afternoon with news of the interest rate cut by Halifax, seen as squeezing margins in the sector as others are bound to follow.

Banks had been particularly favoured in last week's bull run but yesterday they were prominent among the FTSE 100's losers. Standard Chartered was down 34p to 979p, Woolwich 13p lighter at 386p, and Barclays 44p lower at £18.73. Only Lloyds TSB saw gains, up 25p to £10.20p, on decent volumes and rumours that it is still on the lookout for an acquisition.

Boots, the retailer, was boosted 8p to 841p, after it announced an agreement to open its first store in Japan.

Newcastle United, the potential takeover of which by cable company NTL was referred to the Competition Commission on Friday, pulled ahead on the back of its FA Cup semi-final victory at the weekend. The shares closed up 6p to 81p — an 8 per cent rise.

Other football stocks were on the losing side. Nottingham Forest's chairman, Nigel Wray, resigned knocking 14p off its shares to 25p. Tottenham Hotspur — out of the Cup — was 5p cheaper at 674p, Celtic, 22p lower at 305p and Manchester United dipped 1p to 185p — after drawing in the other semi-final against Arsenal.

GLT-EDGED: Life announced that the number of government bonds traded on the debut of its new electronic system, called Connect, had exceeded expectations.

Life's survival as a top exchange depends on whether customers stick with it as it introduces the electronic system.

An era ended at Life on Friday, with traders identifying different coloured jackets, marking the closure of the pit for gilt trading by cheering and singing *Rule Britannia*.

In the futures market, the June series of the long gilt finished down 2p at £118.28.

NEW YORK: US shares were mixed in early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 35.52 points to 10,209.36.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 10209.36 (+35.52)  
S&P Composite 1345.24 (+3.11)

Telny:  
Nikkei Average 16007.40 (-348.23)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 11744.74 (-169.36)

Amsterdam:  
AEX Index 623.17 (-1.56)

Sydney:  
All Ordinaries 3038.2 (-21.8)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 6158.16 (+34.98)

Singapore:  
Straits 1661.26 (-1.98)

Brussels:  
BEL20 3322.59 (-7.00)

Paris:  
CAC-40 4365.00 (-1.14)

Zurich:  
SMI Index 7352.9 (-34.0)

London:  
FTSE 100 6441.2 (-31.6)

FTSE 250 5099.9 (-4.6)

FTSE Smallcap 2066.4 (-13.1)

FTSE Europe 100 2066.4 (-13.1)

FTSE All-Share 2556.36 (-12.48)

FTSE Non Financials 2556.40 (-11.33)

FTSE Financials 155.84 (-0.91)

FTSE Real Estate 114.44 (-2.29)

Bargain:  
S&P 500 1181.69 (+0.0022)

US 10 Year Treasury 6.87% (+0.0000)

ESOP 1.1843

Exchange Index 1027 (+0.1)

Bank on England official rate (April)

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## TEMPUS

### Watered down expectations

WATER company shares have fallen, on average, by about 15 per cent this calendar year. This is during a period when the UK stock market average has risen by about 11 per cent.

At current levels water company shares trade on historic price-earnings multiples of less than ten. Dividend yields, before tax, sit at 6 per cent-plus. To some, this represents a straightforward buying opportunity. The bulls maintain that the worries about the stiff regulatory framework — commented on by Anglian, Hyder and Yorkshire Water yesterday — are overdone. The regulator's bark, say, is likely to be much more frightening than its bite. Inevitable horse trading is bound to leave the firms in a much better final position than may seem likely at present.

Supporters also believe that water company shares have come under pressure as investors

have sold to raise cash to buy into sectors with more exciting growth potential.

There is substance in the arguments. But while the perception of the impact of the regulatory review may be misinformed, the perception exists and is likely to damage sentiment for as long as the uncertainty persists — and that will be for six months or so. Not only that, but the regulator may bite as badly as he threatens he will. If he does, the juicy looking dividend yields may prove a mirage as companies are forced to cut payouts to fund infrastructure expenditure.

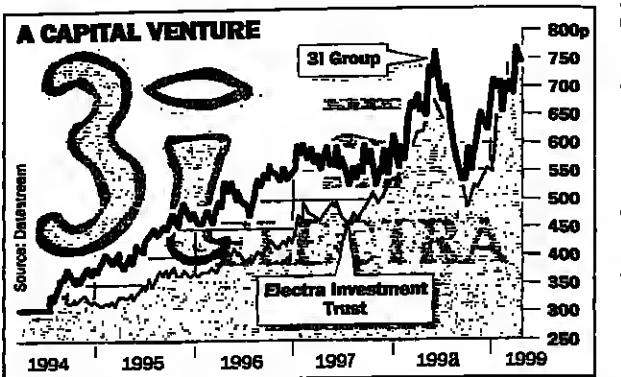
The prospects for capital growth among water company shares remains doubtful, at least in the short term. If there is value to be had, however, it is most obvious in firms with sustainable non-water interests, such as Thames Water and Pennon.

## Electra

D-DAY approaches for investors in the Electra Investment Trust. On Thursday they meet to vote on Electra's independence plan. The fate of a hostile takeover bid from rival venture capitalist 3i also rests on the vote because, if Electra's proposals are rejected, shareholders will tacitly endorse 3i, although the formal vote on its bid comes later.

As decision time draws nearer, the dirty tricks brigade has been out in force. Aspersions have been cast, and rejected, about the cause and sustainability of last week's rise in the value of 3i shares. The 3i price is important because it affects the implied value of 3i's cash and share offer. But while 3i shares spiked surprisingly last week, the longer-term outlook for 3i stock is stouter than for Electra.

Investors may have been en-



## British Land

BRITISH LAND, no slouch at reading markets, is planning to raise £1.5 billion at just over 6 per cent, secured on the income of its Broadgate properties. The fundraising follows the Canary Wharf securitisation which itself was a record at just £550 million. There is clearly appetite for property debt with good income covenants.

The two estates are not dissimilar, both let in large part to banks and geared as much to the fortunes of Wall Street as the UK economy. But British Land has wisely rejected the option of floating off a stake in Broadgate in the manner of the Canary. With property shares still valued at discounts to net worth, who would want a discount on a discount?

Broadgate's supporters sneer at the Canary, out on a limb in the East End, but at its inception, Broadgate's Liverpool Street location was

seen as a fringe development.

Yet the biggest threat to Broadgate is probably not the towers in Docklands but the planners at the City Corporation who appear ready to let loose a construction tide in the Square Mile in order to keep banks and jobs from moving to Frankfurt.

Nevertheless, British Land should have a few good years of rental growth at Broadgate, and the refinancing frees resources for other projects.

Hold.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

Yes, Game's shares have

halfed in value since coming to market last year but the company is no basket case. It is profitable and has good, well-placed outlets.

The bargain basement price, however, does not necessarily mean Game shareholders are being short changed. Those who opt to be paid in EB shares can continue to benefit from the upside, and the assets will be better managed to boot. The combined business will be a powerful market leader in the British computer games retailing. EB is also set to move into France, where the market is far less developed.

The market is likely to hot up even more thanks to the release of titles based on the new Star Wars film, and the launch of the Sega Dreamcast. All this makes EB's shares — currently 81p, or 25 times historic earnings — look attractive. EB is not without risk, but worth a punt.

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ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

# The dilemma of unleashing a Lawson-style explosion

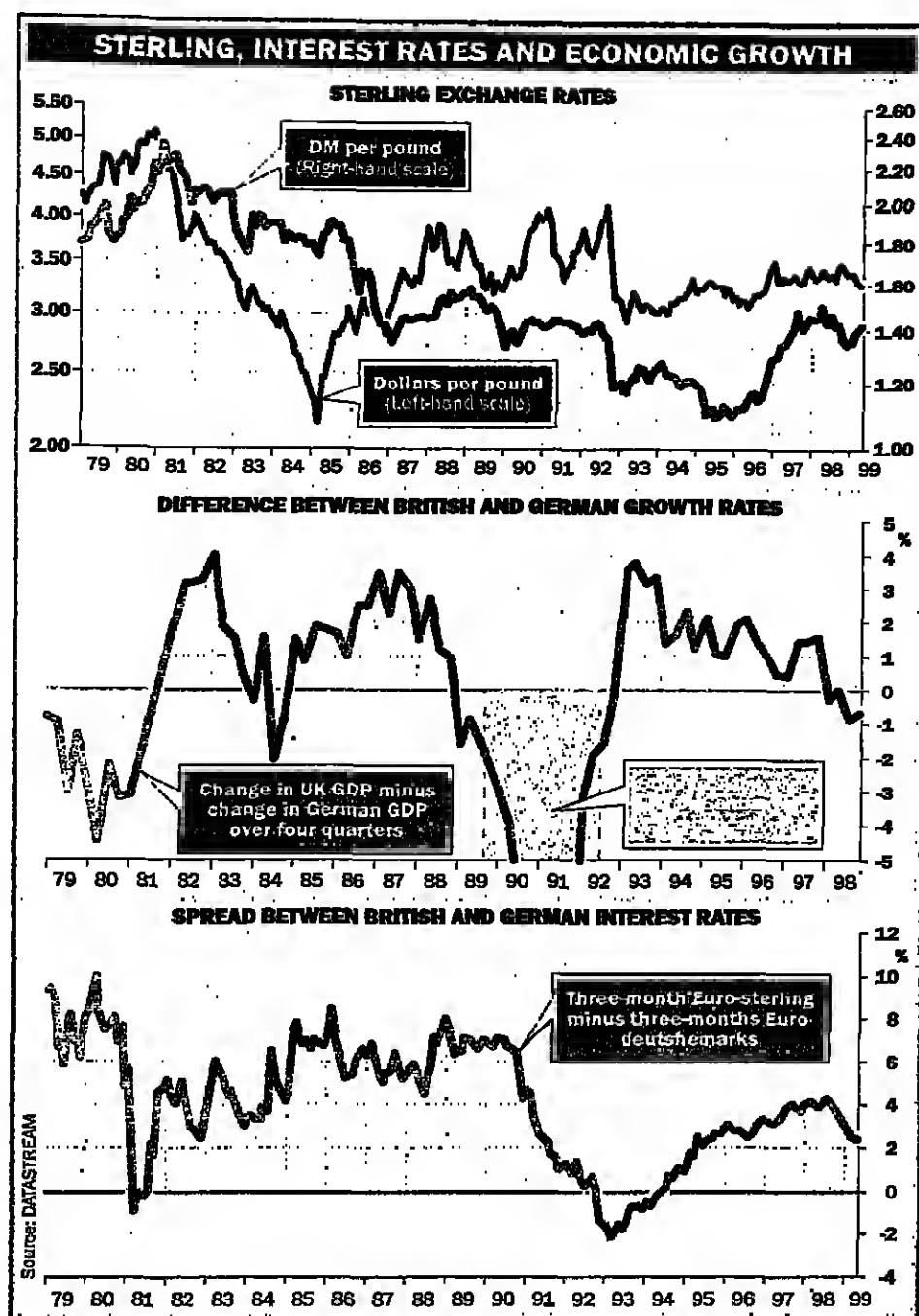
Sometime in the coming months, the difference between British and European rates will widen further

Thinking about the financial implications of last Thursday's rate cuts in Europe and Britain I was suddenly struck by an unexpected thought. Could the world economy, and particularly the British economy, now be threatened by a rerun of the late 1980s? This was the period when the Bundesbank's delayed and reluctant response to a slowdown in the European economy and an international financial crisis set off a chain reaction of global instability and currency misalignments and eventually triggered a moderate, but nonetheless disruptive, inflationary boom and bust. In Britain, 1987-88 is remembered even more painfully as the year when Nigel Lawson became suddenly obsessed with trying to take sterling into the European exchange-rate mechanism, or at least to direct British monetary policy at "shadowing" the mark. Could central bankers in Britain and Europe make some of the same mistakes in the next few months?

Thursday's rate cuts by the Bank of England and the European Central Bank drew attention to several interesting analogies between economic conditions today and in the late 1980s.

Consider first some of the similarities in the global environment. Firstly, the world economy was recovering, then as now, from a frightening financial crisis (the 1987 stock market crash), which had produced a sharp, but temporary, fall in financial confidence in Britain and America, but actually did more economic damage to Germany and Japan. (The real economic damage done in the 1987 crash was due to sharp appreciation of the mark and the yen after the Wall Street crash). Then, as now, the initial economic dislocation that preceded the financial crisis was related to deflationary conditions in developing countries (the Latin American debt crisis and the collapse in the price of oil in 1985).

Then, as now, there was a stark contrast between the attitudes of the German and American central banks to the mid-cycle economic slowdown and threat of deflation. (It is worth recalling that in 1986 price inflation actually fell below zero for the first and only time in Germany's history.) The Federal Reserve Board cut interest rates quite aggressively in mid-1985 and went on cutting until the autumn of 1986, resulting in a peak to trough fall of almost 4 percentage points. The Bundesbank, by contrast, cut interest rates much more slowly



ly in 1985 and refused to budge any further from the autumn onwards. Throughout 1986, as the Fed was aggressively easing monetary policy, the Bundesbank maintained its "steady hand" approach.

Then, as now, the result of the Bundesbank's refusal to pursue a policy of monetary expansion, was a dramatic slowdown in European growth. Then, as now, this slowdown occurred at the worst possible time, when European unemployment was already quite high, when the US trade gap was already alarmingly wide and when stimulative monetary policies were successfully reigniting growth in America and Britain, thereby adding to the trade imbalance.

But why bring all this up today? After all, hasn't the European Central Bank finally eased interest rates and much more aggressively than expected? Yes — but. The "but" relates to the foolish conditions attached to its rate cut by the ECB. Instead of openly admitting that it is now in the business of promoting European growth and promising to continue easing monetary policy for as long as it takes to revive European growth and employment, the ECB has publicly

promised to take no further action. In its official rhetoric the ECB has faithfully mimicked the contemptuous attitude towards "contra-cyclical monetary policy" that was always the ideological hallmark of the Bundesbank. How nostalgically redolent of the late unlamented Bundesbank were the words of Wim Duisenberg last Thursday when he announced his rate cut: "With the greatest force I can put in my voice, I want to deny that we have changed our strategy in any way — we are not pursuing a cyclically oriented policy."

By refusing to follow the example of the Fed and the Bank of England, which have effectively reassured businessmen and consumers in their countries that demand will be stabilised and recession avoided at all cost, the ECB, like the Bundesbank before it, has diminished the economic effectiveness of its own monetary easing. As a result, last week's rate cut, generous as it was, is unlikely to restore business confidence quickly in Europe. And continuing declines in confidence will put pressure on the ECB to ease still further — a pressure to which it will ul-

timately succumb. Because it insists on cutting interest rates too late, it will finally cut them by too much. Returning to history, this is exactly what the Bundesbank was finally forced to do in early 1988, as the mark soared against the dollar and European business confidence collapsed. The result of the Bundesbank's untimely and erratic actions in the late 1980s was to exacerbate both the mid-cycle slowdown of 1986-87 and the increasingly inflationary recovery of 1988-89, which created the worst possible conditions for the reunification boom. Another even more spectacular example of the damage done by tardy and reluctant central banking has been visible in Japan since 1995. The danger now is that the ECB will repeat the same pattern of errors — first waiting too long before easing, then undermining confidence in its own actions by calling a premature halt to further rate cuts, and finally being forced to cut interest rates anyway and doing too much.

There are, of course, many reasons why Europe is unlikely to experience an inflation boom in the foreseeable future. There is no shock comparable to German reunification on the

horizon. Europe is going through a period of aggressive competitive adjustment. And the general condition of the world economy is probably more deflationary today than it was in the mid-1980s. Nevertheless, misjudged and erratic policies by the ECB could do a great deal of harm, not only to Europe, but also to its trading partners around the world.

This brings me back to Britain. Apart from all the worldwide parallels with the late 1980s already noted, three more parochial similarities are worth noting. Firstly there is the state of the domestic economy, which now seems to be on the verge of a major revival in demand, after flirting with a recessionary threat whose seriousness was overestimated by most commentators, just as it was in 1986-87. Secondly, there is the high level of worldwide confidence in British economic management and political stability. This confidence may or may not be justified, but just as in the late 1980s, it is at least a temporary fact of British life. Thirdly, and most importantly, there is a potential conflict, with major political connotations, between the monetary policies of Britain and the rest of Europe.

To see what I mean by this last factor, one need only think ahead to the interest rate decisions of the Bank of England and the ECB during the rest of this year. The ECB's next move, if there is another this year, will almost certainly be a further cut. The Bank, by contrast, will probably start raising rates sometime this year, even if it does make one further rate cut before the summer (which I personally rather doubt). Sometime in the coming months, therefore, the difference between British and European interest rates will widen further, yet even as this monetary gap widens, Britain's domestic economic growth will accelerate. This will create the classic conditions for a further hardening of sterling, at a time when British industry is demanding a weaker pound and government ministers are quietly promising to deliver exactly this by joining the single currency. But the more the pound rises, and the wider grows the gap between British and European interest rates, the harder it will be to take sterling into EMU at a comfortably low rate.

The Government and the Bank of England will then be faced with an all too familiar dilemma. Should Britain's monetary policy "shadow" the policy in Europe at the risk of unleashing a Lawson-style boom? Should British industry be exposed to the disciplines of an even stronger pound? Or should we just jump into EMU at whatever happens to be the prevailing interest and exchange rates and just hope for the best, as Jan Majors did when he joined the ERM? Whatever happens, we should not forget what happened in the years after 1988.

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## Baby boom crucial to Boeing's hopes of regeneration

Arthur Leathley asks whether sales of the 717 will fly as the US group fights back against Airbus

Rarely has a baby carried so much responsibility, so many hopes and fears on its shoulders. Or, to be more precise, on its wings.

The infant burdened with such high expectation is the "Baby Boeing", a 100-seat aircraft designed for a market that is potentially huge, but as yet relatively unproven. The latest creation of Boeing, the beleaguered US aircraft maker, must succeed in blazing a trail in the short-hop commuter market.

Its task is to convince airlines across the globe that there is a long-lasting demand for a 100-seat jet offering much of the comfort of larger aircraft but with greater frequency and less noise.

The Baby Boeing — or 717-200 — certainly cannot afford to fail. It comes to the market at a time of continuing uncertainty for Boeing's 238,000 staff following last year's announcement that some 50,000 jobs must be cut this year.

Boeing has been the focus of unwelcome attention about its poor productivity, management and financial position, having plunged into loss for the first time in 50 years.

Although Boeing is on course to deliver 620 aircraft this year, 70 up on 1998, analysts remain worried about the short-term direction of the world's biggest aircraft maker.

Crucial discussions are about to begin with unions over the job losses, and strikes are a possibility.

In addition, a huge management shake-up last year has not ended the turmoil at the top of the company. With earnings expected to be lower than originally forecast, at \$1.1 billion, shareholders are looking for early signs of an upturn in the face of an increasingly aggressive challenge from Airbus Industrie, the four-nation European consortium.

While Airbus remains well behind Boeing in deliveries — 229 in 1998 — its order book is growing markedly, up to 536 last year. Such progress sends shudders through US investors used to Boeing's world dominance.

Nick Heymann, senior vice-president of Prudential Securities, the Wall Street broker, said: "There is no doubt that Boeing has a lot of ground to make up. No one really thinks the changes of managers have completed the job, so there is a great deal of doubt over the direction of the firm over the next two years."

Whether the 717 will fulfil in-

vestors' hopes remains an open question. Phil Condit, Boeing's chairman, last week at least allayed some fears by confirming that the 717 programme would continue despite disappointing orders.

Publicly, Boeing executives are buoyant about the sleek newcomer. But privately, they admit that they had hoped that the sales figure, standing at 115, would have passed 200 by the time the aircraft makes its appearance at the Paris Air Show in June.

The importance of the 717 is underlined by the fact that, in a ten-day, whistle-stop tour immediately after the show, senior Boeing executives will take their baby to most of Europe's leading capitals.

While US carriers, TWA and AirTran Airways, have each ordered 50 717s, only 15 have so far been ordered in Europe. European carriers, including SAS and Swissair, as well as the huge leasing company ILFC, have shown interest but have not placed orders.

According to Mr Heymann, the European tour is of critical importance. "If they don't get orders this year, especially from leasing companies, they really have problems."

In Europe, as in the US, more than 80 per cent of regional flights are less than 500 nautical miles, and the 717, a successor to the DC9, is targeting that market.

Boeing believes that, after 15 years in which Airbus has stolen the show with its family of short and medium-haul aircraft, it has found a niche that its European rival has missed.

Chris Longridge, vice-president of European sales, points to huge growth ahead in the market created by low-cost carriers, predominantly in Britain. "There is a great deal of innovation and intense flexibility must be the key to success."

Boeing may need to lure young, no-frills companies such as Debonair, Go, Ryanair and easyJet.

Over the next 20 years, only half the 3,000 short-range aircraft in service will still be flying, as many Boeing 737s, DC9s and BAe 146s will be retired. In addition, Boeing predicts a further 1,100 short-haul jets will be needed to satisfy the growing commuter and leisure traveller demand.

With 2,600 new aircraft needed, Boeing says that being first to the market is crucial. Airbus is still preparing plans for its A318, an aircraft that Boeing executives scathingly call a "double shrink" of its existing A320. Although the first A318 will not be delivered until 2002, Airbus claims it already has 130 firm orders, including 50 from TWA.

"The key is that our plane is flying. Theirs isn't," says Jerry Callaghan, director of the 717 programme.

Boeing is desperate to regain its position as the innovator, the company the aviation world has to watch. The excitement of the world-shrinking effect of the 717 and the market-dominating arrival of the 737 are now a mere memory.

With the 717 selling for less than £20 million, it will take substantial orders to help turn round the 1997 losses of £100 million.

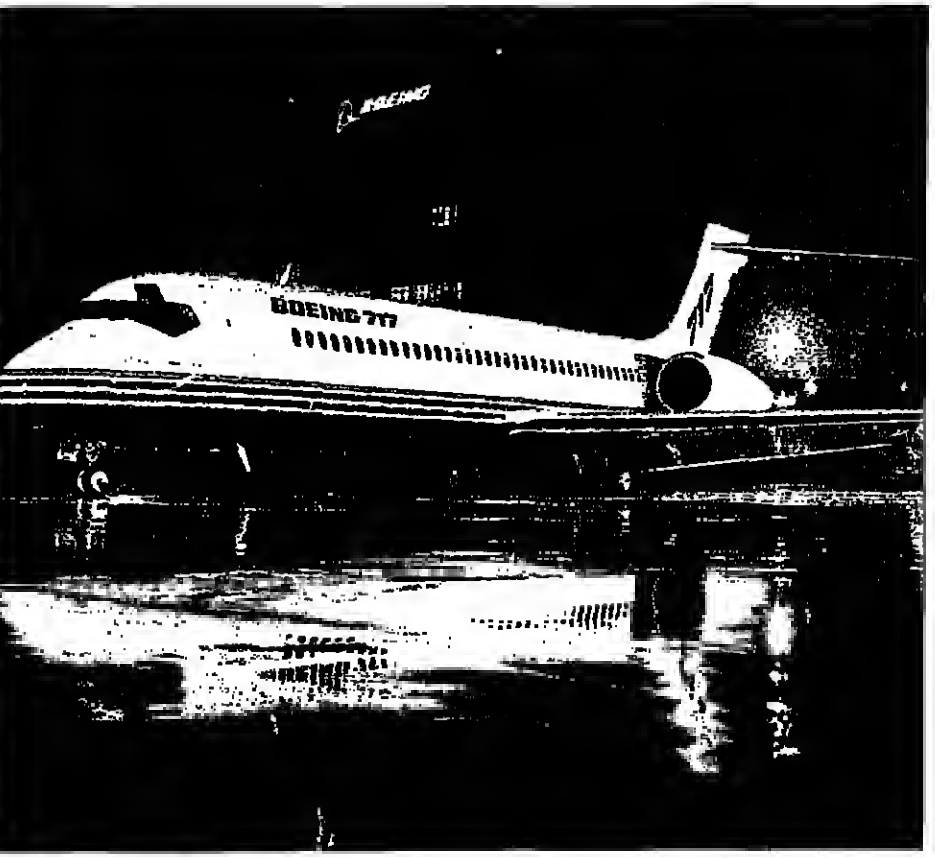
Boeing believes it is overcoming many of the production problems that caused such huge problems in 1996. The massive factories at Everett, near Seattle, and Long Beach are turning out 50 aircraft a month, compared with a low of 18 in mid-1996.

Colossal investment in automation has hit profits but has brought the US company more into line with the high-technology Airbus plant in Toulouse.

The company has also abandoned its old policy of meeting every specification laid down by airlines. The 717, for instance, has fewer than 80 optional extras for airlines to choose from. This contrasts with legendary tales of dozens of different designs that Boeing would offer to create to satisfy demand.

However, although Boeing is unwilling to bend over backwards to sell the 717, it dare not contemplate its baby failing to reach maturity. The company's future rests on the 717 meeting its sales targets.

In the words of Mr Callaghan: "We don't even contemplate failure."



Ready for take off: Boeing's 717 is being marketed as the natural successor to the DC9

## Knight out

NICK KNIGHT, deputy managing director of Nomura in the UK and one of the City's best-known strategists, has quit to set up his own hedge fund. He left Nomura after almost a decade once last year's bonus payment was confirmed, as indeed you would, and is now mulling over names.

Knight Fund Management is the favourite, with a play on words or logo on knights, chessmen and strategy, he tells me. "I've toyed with this idea for a number of years, and the time is now right."

I ask, in my ignorance, if big hedge funds are really flavour of the month. "You can do it at

any level you want," he says. "I've got enough serious punters already."

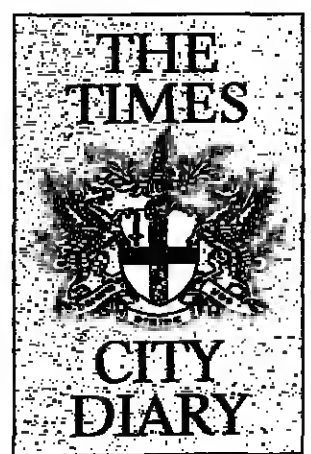
READ this. "Next is planning a wide range of national and local events to raise awareness of the building week is National Construction Week, and Hanson plc, sponsor of the week, materials and construction industry."

No, I have no idea what it means either, but it is an announcement from Hanson, the building materials people. And it has nothing to do with Next, the fashion chain. It appears to concern a special week for builders. They're not coming anywhere near my house, I can tell you.

## Bale out

TROUBLE at European Leisure, the subject of a bad-tempered and complicated three-way takeover bid, over the "golden parachutes" negotiated by its directors if one of the bids succeeds.

The offer document from Allied Leisure, the preferred bidder, shows that Ian Rock, chief executive, could receive £385,000 in all should Allied win the day. Other directors



will not exactly be on the headline either. The people at Waterfall, the other bidder, sniff that it all seems "extremely generous".

Rock's package buys him out of a two-year rolling contract on £175,000 a year. He can also buy his car for £7,000. "It's an elderly Lexus — he bought it second-hand and with high mileage already," European's advisers claim.

THE people at Garban, the money broker, will mark the funeral of John Bullen, a colleague who died a fortnight ago, with a charitable donation. Bullen was just 37 when he died of heart problems.

He will be buried on Thursday, and all the profits from

that day's trading on the Scandinavian forward forex desk where he worked will go to a charity of his family's choice.

THIS is completely bonkers, but it is true. Hewitt Associates, the management consultant, has hired the London Philharmonic Orchestra for tomorrow evening for "an interactive experience for exploring the metaphor of conductor as leader and orchestra as organisation".

As a result, 250 business people from firms including BP Amoco and Diageo will sit among the orchestra for a performance of the Enigma Variations conducted by Roger Nierenberg of Stamford Symphony Orchestra. (The idea, unsurprisingly, is American).

"You will be called up to take the podium, take the baton and conduct the orchestra," someone from Hewitt tells me. A sort of bizarre corporate karaoke, then. But what if you can't conduct for coffee? "He (Nierenberg) will stand behind the person and move their hands for them."

## Pythonesque

OLD times recalled for George Walker, who celebrated winning the Moscow lottery licence by inviting some of his backers over there at the weekend. Walker and his wife,

Jean, were very taken with a nubile Russian who took to the stage at the Metelitsa casino wrapped in a large python and not much else.

As it happens, the Walkers used to keep a python of their own, called Lola, in their penthouse apartment on Pall Mall in the 1980s heydays of Brent Walker. The snake belonged to their actress daughter Romla, now in EastEnders.

George added: "It would wrap itself around me with its head nestled in my neck, where it was warm. When visitors came round, it would put its head up and look at each of them in turn."

Just the trick, it seems, for frightening off their former son-in-law, the Marquess of Milford Haven.

MARTIN WALLER  
city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Walker: snake trick

## Something of Interest from Charles Schwab

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£500,000+	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%

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**THEATRE**  
Tunes and test  
tubes in a camp  
new musical  
PAGE 35

# THE TIMES ARTS

**OPERA**  
Berlin feasts  
on a surfeit  
of Wagner  
PAGE 36



Go has been nicknamed *Pulp Fiction Lite* by America's film critics — and that's no bad thing, says Giles Whittell

## The coolest thing since Quentin

**G**o must be the first film ever to include a white Brit in its line-up in the interests of ethnic diversity. He is not a token Brit, exactly — he gets co-star billing and causes a tremendous amount of mayhem — but he is definitely typecast, and the manner of his typecasting should give us, as a nation, pause for thought.

Our new cultural ambassador, played with great conviction by Desmond Askew, does not quite recall the icons of suave by which we were once known in Hollywood — the Nivens, the Connerys, even the Grants. He is more like Mr Bean with a mouth and a libido, or Clouseau with a robust Romford twang. He is friendly, naive, horrifyingly reckless and very, very stupid. Yes indeed. We will have another chance to be smug at the Yanks' expense when Hugh Grant socks it, so to speak, to Julia Roberts in *Notting Hill*. But in the mean time the Yanks are laughing at us, and in *Go* we have no choice but to go along with it.

This film is brazenly derivative, mainly of *Pulp Fiction*. Critics have variously called it *Pulp Fiction Jr.*, *Pulp Fiction Lite* and the grunge version of *Speed*. Maybe so. But it still manages to deliver a fun and frolic of an all-night Ecstasy-fuelled rave in a suburban LA airport hangar. Much of this has to do with the script, a superbly taut concoction by the 27-year-old John August, and his first to make it to the big screen. It is deeply hip — lines like "Don't get 818 on me here" presuppose a native Hollywoodite's contempt for the San Fernando Valley and its area code. It is also funny, to wit a talking cat, complete with subtitles, lecturing on the effects of Ecstasy. And it offers the odd wholesome satisfaction of seeing multiple plot strands thrown off like sparks from a Catherine wheel by the telling of the same chaotic story from three points of view, and then seeing them neatly resolved.

The strand involving Askew's mad Brit is actually the least original. All he does is go to Las Vegas with a bunch of male friends, throw up, have sex with two women at once, set their hotel room alight, steal a Ferrari and shoot a bouncer at a strip club. There is also a car chase. Back in LA, the girl who took Askew's shift at the stultifying supermarket where they toil

**BIG  
SCREEN  
USA**

tries to take on some of his drug-dealing work as well. Her first two customers turn out to be gay actors who play cops in a TV series but spend a sublimely bizarre Christmas Eve with a real narcotics detective and his wife, at the mercy of their wholly unexpected desires.

Despite its script, this project could have turned out like *200 Cigarettes*, an equally modish young ensemble piece that came and went last month, barely registering at the box office. The difference is Doug Liman, the director, who launched several careers, including his own, with *Swingers* two years ago. His restraint with his actors and his editing are paradoxically what make *Go* go: the result is at once frenzied and deadpan, allowing squarer souls to believe there may actually be kids out there who behave this badly.

Liman is his own cinematographer, which means it was probably his idea to send one of his checkout clerks on a delirious Macarena through the fruit and veg section of the supermarket where the film begins and ends. His skanky vision of low-budget LA partying is so real that he ends up not so much plagiarising Quentin Tarantino as threatening to usurp him as auteur of the moment at large in the underworld of Southern California's stoned yoo.

If Liman is the new Tarantino, he is helped by having the new Uma Thurman and Tom Cruise in his cast. The former is his lead, Sarah Polley. She has the legs of a giraffe and can make "Paper or plastic" (as in "What sort of bag would you like your groceries in?") sound like a mortal threat. The latter is Scott Wolf, a dead ringer for Cruise in the era of *Top Gun*. His role as one of the gay actors marks a long-awaited graduation to features from sitcoms and reminds one of a top-class athlete running well within himself.

He and Polley are well supported by Taye Diggs — who gets lucky with lines like: "If one man in ten was having the



The next big things of 1999? Taye Diggs (left) and the hugely promising British actor Desmond Askew in Doug Liman's brazenly derivative but modishly entertaining new movie *Go*

sex I'm having there would be no war" — and by the spooky William Fichtner, who was blind in *Contact* but now sees everything as the drug cop. Where Askew goes from here is certain. He doesn't look or sound like the next Ewan McGregor, but he leaves his mark on *Go*. Thanks mainly to him the film's ratings on the parent-orientated screenit.com website are: Alcohol/Drugs —

heavy; Blood/Gore — heavy; Disrespectful/Bad Attitude — extreme.

Such warnings seem to be having an effect at the box office. Despite rave reviews, *Go* opened four places behind *Never Been Kissed*, the weekend's top opener — a patchy contrivance about a reporter who goes back to high school undercover. *Never Been Kissed* is notable mainly as

proof that Drew Barrymore can carry a film as well as many actresses earning three times as much. We knew she could act, and last year she showed she could charm the pants off America as well: *The Wedding Singer* took in \$80 million in the US alone and *Ever After* made \$65 million. So enough of this froth, Ms Barrymore. Next time audition for Doug Liman.

### US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

1 (1) <i>The Matrix</i> (Warner Bros)	\$22.2m/\$37.4m
2 (2) <i>Never Been Kissed</i> (Twentieth Century Fox)	\$11.7m/\$11.7m
3 (3) <i>The Out-of-Towners</i> (Paramount)	\$5.3m/\$8.2m
4 (2) <i>10 Things I Hate About You</i> (Touchstone)	\$5.2m/\$11.5m
5 (4) <i>Analyze This</i> (Warner Bros)	\$5.1m/\$78.5m
6 (1) <i>Go</i> (Columbia)	\$4.7m/\$4.7m
7 (5) <i>Forces of Nature</i> (DreamWorks)	\$3.7m/\$8.5m
8 (6) <i>Twin Dragons</i> (Miramax)	\$2.8m/\$2.8m
9 (3) <i>Dog's 1st Movie</i> (Disney)	\$2.3m/\$9.3m
10 (1) <i>Footloose</i> (Arts)	\$2.3m/\$2.3m

● First amount is estimated weekend takings, April 9-11. Second amount is total takings to April 15. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

● Keanu Reeves appears to have bounced back into the big time with *The Matrix*. The cyberspace thriller retains its No 1 spot for the second week, though Robert De Niro also goes from strength to strength with his Mafia comedy *Analyze This*, now approaching \$100 million in takings.

## Some are more equal

**B**its and pieces night at the Wigmore Hall. The scherzo and trio from Schubert's great string quintet, a Mozart violin sonata allegro, the opening of *The Art of Fugue* played twice, a Beethoven minuet and trio in two different garbs, the first chunk of a Bach violin partita; and just one complete work, one of Haydn's early string quartets, Op 20, No 6.

What was this, *Homage to Classic FM* or *Brian Kyr's Friday Evening*? Certainly not. The concert's linchpin and magnet was Vikram Seth and the publication of his novel, *An Equal Music*. Its narrating hero, Michael Holmes, plays second violin in a string quartet, the Maggioris; and he pursues his art in, among other places, the Wigmore Hall — in Michael's words "the sacred shoe-box of chamber music".

**CONCERTS**  
*An Equal Music*  
Wigmore Hall

So what better than a concert of music mentioned in the novel, with the author reading extracts moderately eloquently, and a pile of signed copies in the foyer?

This was a good idea and a bad idea. Good, because extracts and music at their best fertilised each other. We heard about Haydn writing his quartet in 1772 "with the sharpened feather of a bird"; we experienced the implied bright fleetness in the performance of the ad hoc group led by Maya Iwachukhi's gorgeously beautiful first violin. We heard of Michael in Vienna, perform-

ing Schubert with his long-lost love Julia and entering the composer's tormented mind. A few minutes later, the strings scurried, growled and sobbed through the scherzo of the C major quintet, passion bursting free from formal constraints.

But interlaced readings and music snippets did not make a compelling concert, and certainly precluded performances offering much organic flow. Instead, everything was managed with force and alacrity, from the opening of Bach's solo violin partita, BWV 1006, executed with panache by Philippe Honoré, to the brilliant platform re-adjustments. No player demonstrated more force, perhaps, than Joanna MacGregor. In the minuet from Beethoven's C minor piano trio (also heard reworked for string quintet), there was



Vikram Seth, whose novel *An Equal Music* is just out

little of Seth's "equal music": MacGregor's piano stood in the spotlight, blazing nimbly through the movement's descending scales. She was better displayed alone at the end, steering a gravely beautiful path through the Contrapunctus I from Bach's *Art of Fugue*. An over-precious evening.

GEOFF BROWN

## Parade of the imagination

**R**adio 3's *Endless Parade* of British music since 1945 reached Britten's *Death in Venice* at the weekend. Although infrequently staged it could, I suppose, be considered a classic of our half-century and, as Britten's last opera, either an apotheosis of the composer's imaginative genius, or an indication, pace the character of Gustav von Aschenbach in Thomas Mann's novel, of the artist's waning creative powers. It depends how you hear it.

Hearing was, indeed, the only option on Saturday. The endless parade of travellers, strawberry-sellers, gondoliers and godlike children which passes before the eyes of Aschenbach existed only in the mind's eye in this concert performance by the BBC Philharmonic and Yan Pascal Tortelier. The shimmering mirage of life which quivers round Aschenbach's monodrama — the gliding figures of Tadzio and his mother, the seaside pentathlon, the balletic children's games — was concentrated entirely within the score, thus refocusing its shortcomings as well as its unique imaginative invention.

As Anthony Rolfe Johnson lived, moved and had his being in every last inflected semitone and nuance of Aschenbach's writing, Tadzio and his attendant gods could almost have been an invention of his own mind — which, to some extent of course, they are. But those tiny musical cells, those exquisite tunings of pitch, timing and register; the sunstruck meeting of harp and piano, the

**Death in Venice**  
Festival Hall

menace of the bass woodwind, the scirocco breath of brushed drum and cymbal; they seemed at times little more than a seductive patina of sonorities. And Aschenbach's soliloquies — Myfanwy Piper's frequently arch rendering into direct speech of Mann's infinitely subtle third-person narrative — were too often reduced to irritating verbalising without the visual complement, or distraction, of production. In short, with the comings and goings of all the minor characters, there was too much distraction to allow the imagination to work fully on the dramatic shortfalls, and too little distraction to disguise the weaknesses of the work.

Nevertheless, this uneasy compromise could hardly have been better realised. Stefan Janski directed deftly the multifarious exits and entrances of the BBC Singers in all the cameo roles: their cunningly judged movement will doubtless add to the eloquence of the Radio 3 broadcast on May 7. Michael Chance, his counter-tenor coppery-gold as the Voice of Apollo, and Alan Opie as the Voice of Dionysus, held their debate from opposite boxes, high in the hall. And Opie as Traveller, Elderly Pop, Old Conductor, Hotel Manager and Barber was a veritable one-man-band of characters.

HILARY FINCH

### BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical CDs, in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

**POULENC'S CONCERTO FOR ORGAN, STRINGS AND TIMPANI**

Reviewed by Chris de Souza  
Maurice Duruflé gave the first performance of Poulenc's Organ Concerto; his performance must be regarded as authoritative. But other performers have had to make their own minds up about the work's many subtleties. A good performance will exploit its dichotomy of styles. The opening gesture recalls the opening of Bach's G minor Fantasia and Fugue, but Poulenc subverts it at once with a quieter passage pinned down by an ominous figure on the timps. It sounds Baroque but isn't. Play it like Baroque music and you get it wrong. George Malcolm attempts to put the Romantic genie back into the Baroque bottle, but is subverted by the Academy of St Martin, who bring every expressive nuance to bear on the sinuous string writing.

In the first minute Poulenc presents us with two antithetical styles — sturdy Baroque pillars of sound contrasted with soft Romantic harmonies. Every performance has to reckon with this split in the work's character. Poulenc marks the first allegro "giocoso". André Previn with Simon Preston and the LSO makes it sound like angst-ridden Mahler. Preston's performance is fine, but he's even better with the Boston Phil on Decca.

Duruflé pushes the Philharmonia so hard it ends up in a headlong rush. The BBC Philharmonic at Liverpool Cathedral with Ian Tracey gets lost in the cavernous acoustic, and with the Lille orchestra and Philippe Tebvre in Notre Dame too much detail suffers in the more hectic passages.

The gentle three-time interlude is difficult to keep crisp in rhythm. Aware of the dangers of letting the rhythm go slack, Malcolm almost double dots it. The Boston Symphony under Munch is rather slow and turgid. Munch has a special relationship with Poulenc's music, but it doesn't shine through here. How much better the Boston Symphony sounds with Simon Preston under Seiji Ozawa (DG 445 67-2, £10.49). At the point where Poulenc marks the music "très allent, très gai", Preston somehow puts the bounce into it. Malcolm's approach at St John's College doesn't mesh with that of the Academy of St Martin. Marie-Claire Alain's performance with the ORTF and Jean Martinon doesn't for me get right inside the music. Duruflé's recording with the ORTF and Georges Pretre has atmosphere, though the balance and the overall string sound leave something to be desired.

My choice is Simon Preston — always absolutely faithful to the letter as well as the spirit of the score.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 428; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*

## Music to watch paintings by

**A**rtistic vision and good timing came together here, allowing the London Sinfonietta to combine its *State of the Nation* weekend of young British music with the closing days of the Hayward Gallery's Patrick Caulfield exhibition.

By giving the premieres of four RVW Trust commissions written specially for the exhibition to an audience surrounded by these paintings, the Sinfonietta overcame its usual handicap of having to play unregimented music in regimented spaces. Each of these musical "pictures" at an exhibition evokes strong visual images, and each is very different in its

**Compositions for Caulfield**  
Hayward Gallery

use of a fixed ensemble consisting of clarinet (Timothy Lines), trombone (David Purser), double bass (Enno Senft) and keyboard (John Constable). But two in particular seem to find striking musical equivalents for Caulfield's style: Karen Smith's *Within the Walls* and Edward Rushton's *Cheap Drinks* both catch the poster-like simplicity and vigour, as well as the artist's mixture of humour and melancholy.

*Within the Walls* operates on two different levels. It begins very effectively with a low, staccato melody broken up between the different instruments. Gradually the ideas are gathered up in fragmentary, jazzy strains, and the contrasting lines are integrated only at the close.

*Cheap Drinks* is inspired partly by Caulfield's *Happy Hour*, and is the composer's attempt to "popularise" a stark-looking bar. The wailing clarinet of the opening is joined by a striding double bass and manic trombone, all at cross-purposes and with sampled sounds added in, before a common chant unites them.

Ian Vine's three black moons takes its name not from Caulfield but an Alexander Calder mobile. Indeed, this quiet score is almost like a mobile in its evocation of suspended sound and the way in which the same ideas are heard as if from different angles.

The visual connections *Tightropes of the Mind* makes are to the fact that its composer, Marc Yeats, is a painter himself. A plain surface of sound is disturbed by the double bass "protagonist" and other voices including keyboard chimes, but calm cohesion is achieved by the end.

JOHN ALLISON

سكندرية الامم



# Time to root out the Nazi plunder

British galleries may unwittingly hold many works looted by Hitler's henchmen. Simon Tait reports on an initiative to see justice done

The Tate acquired T04863, as it is listed in the acquisitions list, for £57,000 from dealers in 1986, a year after it was sold at Sotheby's. It is a large still life by André Derain painted some time between 1938 and 1943, an important acquisition because of the size and some of the characteristics of Derain. Its provenance was convincingly sound, at least by the lights of 1986.

'In the 1980s we were less fastidious than we are now'

But today a question mark hangs over T04863. "We think it's OK, but now we can't be sure," says the Tate's director, Sir Nicholas Serota. "Even in the 1980s and early 1990s one was less fastidious about what we acquired than one is now."

Nothing is known about its ownership until it appeared at auction. It was not sold through Derain's usual Paris dealer and it is not even clear precisely when it was painted.

The doubt, though, is not whether T04863 is by Derain, unusual as it is. The question is a new one, not on the checklist in 1986: was this painting stolen by the Nazis and sold through the Paris art market they controlled during the Occupation?

It's a question we have recently learnt has to be asked about anything we acquire whose history between 1933 and 1945 is not certain," Serota says.

Between those dates Hitler's henchmen took thousands of works of art from private and sometimes public ownership. Some were kept while many were sold on, often through the Paris dealers, some of them run by Jews who were given "Aryan status" because of their usefulness.

On behalf of the National Museum Directors' Conference, Serota has instigated a massive search through the whole national collection, and with almost military precision the 27 institutions concerned have their action plans in place and this week are beginning the exhaustive trawl.

The Tate will have a comparatively simple task. Its team, led by the company secretary Sharon Page, will trace the histories of about 600 works, a dozen or so of which, like the Derain, are obscure.

But collections such as those at the British Museum and the V&A will have a much more complicated task, scanning the antecedents of objects from coins to costume to verify that none of the national archive is tainted. Most of the 27 institutions expect to complete the



The picture of integrity: Sharon Page checks the collection in the Tate's stores to make sure that the provenance of all its works can be verified for the years 1933 to 1945

task in six months, though.

The search will be guided by a high-powered advisory committee, chaired by a High Court judge, Sir David Neuberger, and including the art dealer Sir Jack Baer, the critic Marina Vaizy, Professor David Cesarani, director of the Institute of Contemporary History, and the former Arts Minister, Mark Fisher.

"I think it's really important that the wider world should be given a feeling that this isn't something that's happening quietly behind closed doors, that there is some form of objective assessment, that museums are doing everything that

they can under the public eye," says Serota.

Himself a scion of a leading British Jewish family, Serota was anxious that, although the chairman is Jewish, there were non-Jewish members of the committee — co-opted by Neuberger, not Serota — to make it clear that the issue is one that does not affect only Jews.

The search is not confined to works of art lost to Nazi looting by Jewish owners, however. "It's all works that were confiscated in the period from whomsoever they were taken, but we know this is a period in which confiscation took place

on a fairly massive scale," Serota says. "It's of sufficiently recent date for there to be at least traceable relatives, though of course many people will have died in camps and elsewhere, and we think it's very clearly a period of history that is still of continuing concern."

The art world was alerted that there might be thousands of Nazi-confiscated works of art in national collections at the Nazi Gold conference hosted in London by the Foreign Office at the end of 1997. That was followed up by a conference on stolen art in Washington a year later, for which the national museum directors set

up their working party under Serota's chairmanship.

The first inkling the British public might have had of the potential problem was in January when it was announced that *Monet in the 20th Century*, about to end its record-breaking run at the Royal Academy, would not include the artist's *Water Lilies 1904* when the exhibition came from Boston to London, because a claim on it was lodged while it was in the exhibition.

The picture had been part of a collection put together by Hitler's Foreign Minister, von Ribbentrop, but was alleged to have been confiscated from

the prominent Jewish collector in Paris, Paul Rosenberg. It has been in the trust of the Musée National d'Art Moderne since 1980. In American law, looted works of art are indemnified against seizure in a third country, but there is no such law in Britain.

"What cannot happen under our law is for works to be returned to owners if they have been acquired legally by us, but there could be claims for compensation," says Serota.

"I don't think in any sense this is a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Even if we find a very small number of works, it's very important that this

should be seen to be something that does concern the wider community, even if at the end of the day the number of works is very small.

"We're not talking about spending millions of pounds to trace one lost picture that's worth £10,000. We're talking about a group of museum professionals using their expertise to do something which is going to be of value in any event in terms of scholarship, which is tracing the provenance of works in their collections. And we're talking about a group of people, the advisory group, who can bring a wider sensibility to bear on this."

## Singalong in search of a cult

Why do some deliberately naff, jolly self-parodying musicals end up as cult successes while others get quickly forgotten? The question surfaced last year when Birmingham Rep restaged *The Rocky Horror Show* at the same time that another piece of camp sci-fi, *Saucy Jack and the Space Vipers*, came noisily but briefly throbbing and bopping into the West End. And with the transfer of Richard O'Brien's musi-



Cutie and the prof: Louisa McCarthy and Paul Thornley

cal to the Victoria Palace, and the simultaneous arrival in North London of *Escape from Pterodactyl Island*, it has to be asked again.

Since we critics are not being asked to review *Rocky Horror* in London I cannot give a definitive answer, but luck and chronology clearly have much to do with it. When the first Frank N. Furter pranced into the tiny Theatre Upstairs in his fishnet tights, it was 1973 and all that sexual burlesque and social rebelliousness seemed liberating. A jaunty little show became a phenomenon and was revived again and again. Many of the original fans will doubtless be at

the Victoria Palace, scarlet corsets beneath their greying hair and sagging jowls, to see how Jason Donovan copes with spoof transvestism. Charm doubtless has something to do with it, and *Pterodactyl Island* certainly has more of that commodity than *Saucy Jack*. But I cannot imagine what nerve Peter Morris's libretto would touch, or what need it might fulfil, in cynical

who, for reasons never adequately shown, has escaped from Bedlam, found himself an island, and set about building raggedy monsters with black highwayman's masks and weird magnetic powers. He calls them pterodactoids, and uses them to catch the people that a nice, convenient tidal wave has swept on to his coast. This crew includes his long-lost daughter, whom he promptly turns into the half-dinosaur, half-human queen of his little paradise, and her fiancé Robert, a professor of something-or-other entrusted with sticking up for the traditional English decencies.

There is a lot of enjoyable if repetitive fun at the expense of Paul Thornley's blimpish prof, who is given to uttering period banalities like "I venture we're on some uncharted island" and "judging by the fruits and berries we have collected, I surmise we can survive here for years". But neither that, nor the presence of Louisa McCarthy as a cute aboriginal in leopard-skin bra and hotpants, nor even Michael Jeffrey's always energetic, often catchy music, could reconcile me to a plot that seemed to consist largely of inexplicable escapes and unexplained recaptures. More sophisticated decor might help, but I doubt it. The next cult singalong is likely to start elsewhere.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## Monster mashed



they conjure up grisly laboratories, mist-shrouded decks and any number of incidental characters with minimal interruption, a spare economy of characterisation and a break-neck, though always fluent, delivery. Hence the well-earned relief the Wimbledon Studio Theatre is so small that you can smell the sweat flying off them after a few short scenes.

But this production's ambition is also its limitation. Of course, any stage version of Shelley's text is bound to lose much of the topical satire and moral alle-

gory. Out go the anxieties about the encroachment of evolutionary theory on mankind's self-image. Likewise the central theme of the need for nurture and cooperation in society. The family who tend to the unseen monster, only to cast him off when confronted with his physical appearance, are shunted on and off so quickly that you miss the vital message — that this artificial but essentially natural man has far more humanity than the ostensibly civilised society which makes him what he becomes.

Instead, we are left with a simple story of a hubristic creator haunted to destruction by his creation. Even so, if you do not know the original, the many elisions will soon leave you losing the plot. Four actors, however versatile, just cannot flesh out all this material in such a short time. But the production zips along with so much focused energy that you hardly have time to notice its faults. The result is unavoidably muddled, but nevertheless thoroughly invigorating.

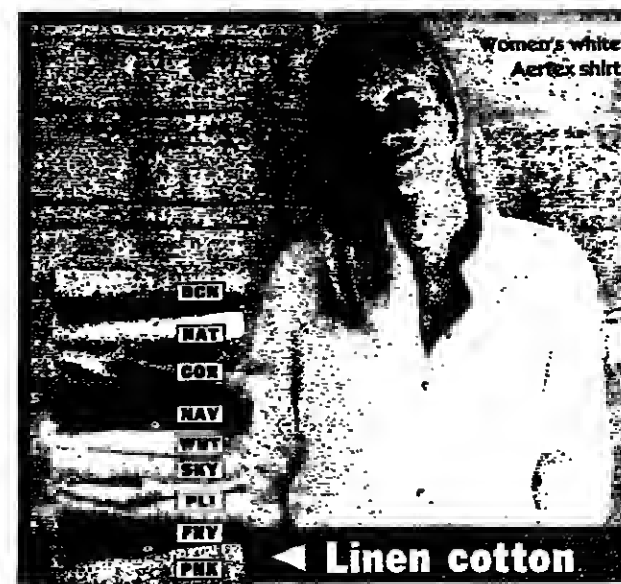
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CHANGING TIMES



## LISTINGS

## Taiwan dance at the Wells

## RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

## LONDON

**CANDIDE:** Great songs in Bernstein's musical drawn from Voltaire. John Caird and Trevor Nunn direct an excellent cast led by Daniel Evans, Alex Kelly and Simon Russell Beale. Oliver (0171-452 3000). Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire. (2)

**CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE:** In its first UK visit the Taiwanese contemporary dance troupe performs *Songs of the Wanderers*. Blended as a spiritual journey through three tones of red, the work blends Eastern and Western tradition in images evoking landscapes and journeys. Sadler's Wells (0171-262 8000). Opens tonight, 8pm. (2)

**TALES OF A CITY:** Life after a catastrophe, told as a mixture of dreams and memories by Macedonian writer Goran Stevanovic. Sandy Maberley directs for Theatre Mosaic. Warehouse, Croydon (0181-680 4060). Opens tonight, 8.30pm.

## ELSEWHERE

**BRISTOL:** New chamber group Zenith takes up its residency here in its inaugural concert this lineup of outstanding players, headed by the leader of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Peter Manning, performs Schostakovich's arrangement of Mahler's Piano Quintet. Beethoven's Piano Trio in B flat and Dvorak's Piano Quintet in A. Michael Kazanovich is the piano soloist. St George's (0117 923 0359). Tonight, 7.30pm. (2)

**LEICESTER:** Gabriella Drake, Ian Peppercorn and Richard White play three of the many murders in Paul Kershaw's production of *The White Devil*. Webster's gory tragedy. Haymarket Theatre (0116-253 9977). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

## NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ■ Some seats available ■ Seats at all prices

■ **MAMMA MIA!** Musical based on the songs of ABBA. Subban McCarty and Lisa Stokes play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Playhouse Theatre. (0171-447 5400).

■ **THE GIN GAME.** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing shuffles echo their past lives. Fifti. Barbican Theatre. (0171-447 5400).

■ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE.** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debut in Neil Simon's play about city angst. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

■ **GOOD COP.** Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance leads a strong cast. Michael Gough directs. Donmar (0171-369 1732).

■ **THE COLONEL BIRD.** Bulgarian author Ivo Vazov's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the Nazis. Donmar (0171-369 1732).

■ **BLOOD KNOT.** Barry Walsman and Gordon Case star in Alistair Furgate's updated version of his celebrated black and white brothers play. Winton. (0171-229 0700).

■ **SACRED HEART.** Mick Mahoney's new one, where two second-generation Irish men from NYC meet again after years estranged. Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

■ **GROSS INDEMNITY.** The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde. Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Haydon and Clive Francis as counsel for and against. In Mollie Kaufman's play. Coliseum (0171-484 8000).

■ **HAMLETS.** Paul Rhys plays the prince in Laurence Boswell's production. With Donald Sumner as Claudius. Young Vic (0171-428 6363).

## FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

## NEW RELEASES

**A CIVIL ACTION (15):** Meany courtroom drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in sparkling form as two sharks in a case about toxic dumping. Steven Zaillian directs.

**BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS (15):** Playful romantic comedy about male bonding with Simon Baker splendidly miscast as a heterosexual New Age Svingale. Rose Troche directs.

**NO (15):** Robert Legrand's supple, black comedy family psychological chain of coincidences between a Canadian actress and her bomb-making boyfriend. A teasing puzzle about politics and art.

**THE FACULTY (15):** Faithful and chilly with high comedy from Kevin Williamson. A faculty of school teachers get taken over by alien squids from outer space. Director Robert Rodriguez roasts the cropping paranoia with snail-clutching wit.

**SLAM (15):** Saul Williams puts in a sensational performance as a black rap poet caught up in the Washington prison system. A gritty documentary-style film by Marc Levin.

**HIGH ART (15):** Ally Sheedy and Richard Dreyfuss spread kitchen gloom and doom in an upmarket photograph.

pic magazine. Drugs, decadence, and Franchese's fail to illuminate Luis Choleudo's corrupted melodrama.

**ORGANIZMO (18):** Tube station elevators are more exciting than this ghastly cartoon spoof on the Hollywood pom industry. Trey Parker writes, directs, and stars.

## CURRENT

**TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG):** Flashback of a New York Times reporter's tributes to the English spinsters who raised him in Florence before Mussolini put him in jail. With Maggie Smith, John Wood, and Julie Delpy.

**PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15):** Jake Scott's 19th-century swashbuckler is mildly amusing if you like being nudged. With Robert Carlyle and Johnny Lee Miller.

**BLAST FROM THE PAST (12):** An ingenious comedy about a man (Brandon Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. Bill Kelly directs.

**THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12):** Chastity Farrow's only child, directed as a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Minkoff directs. A classic 1955 film movie.

## FESTIVALS: Rodney Milnes finds a maestro playing politics in Berlin; plus the best of Cheltenham

## Barenboim's power parade

Artistic politics in Berlin are a minefield, and at times you feel that more importance is attached to them than to the art itself. Both halves of the long-divided city, soon to become Germany's capital once more, were showcases for their respective regimes, with their own lavishly subsidised cultural flagships. Ten years after reunification that duality still survives.

There are two equivalents to our Royal Opera: the State Opera in the east, the Deutsche Oper in the west. There are the Berlin Philharmonic (west) and the Staatskapelle (east). These are only the leading players — there are innumerable other bands and companies — and the sense of rivalry is reminiscent of the days when

## OPERA

Goering and Goebbels squabbled over cultural hegemony in Berlin. You can argue over whether rationalisation is strictly necessary — the organisations are well supported at the box office — but if and when it comes it will not be achieved without the breaking of heads, and you feel that everything that happens in the city is as much jockeying for position as anything else.

Daniel Barenboim, in charge of the State Opera and the Staatskapelle (which, as in Vienna, also plays for the opera), is without doubt a key player. After being ousted from Mitterrand's Bastille Opera before he even started, he was welcomed as a big name to a similar position of power in Berlin. Among his initiatives has been the Berlin Festtage, founded in 1996, a ten-day spring festival of high-octane music-making promoted by the State Opera itself with neither encouragement nor extra money from the city Senate.

Programmes are themed and come in harness with serious seminars — this year the subject was nationalism in music, with performances of *Tannhäuser* and *Lohengrin* making their own creative contribution. Barenboim's closing concert examined some acceptable and less acceptable faces of German music: excerpts from *Fidelio* and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Schoenberg's *Survivor from Warsaw* and one of the nastier moments from *Lohengrin*. Hearing the latter chunk of fascism-in-music twice in 24 hours was almost more than I could take.

Other impressions from the second weekend?

Been there, done that: a scene from Berlin's new yet curiously old-fashioned *Tannhäuser* in the city's showcase Staatsoper Unter den Linden

ond weekend? Barenboim's energy is simply phenomenal: the only other conductor in the festival, for a concert of Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron* and an absolutely stunning *Lied von der Erde*, was Pierre Boulez; the Mahler, wonderfully sung by Jon Villars and Roman Trekel, was the high point of the visit. This is no putdown of Barenboim: it is just that his opera performances have competition from the stage, and his concert with his other orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, devoted to three early Strauss tone poems, proved somewhat indigestible. The overwhelming impression was that the Staatskapelle is a superb orchestra, to be spoken of in the same breath as their colleagues elsewhere in Berlin, in Dresden and Vienna.

Among the Festtage projects is a Wagner cycle, to be completed in 2002. Hearing this orchestra playing the rousic in the Staatsoper Unter

den Linden, definitely Berlin's showcase opera house, is indeed an inviting prospect. And having the same production team — the director Harry Kupfer and set designer Hans Schaefer — for the whole cycle is also fine. In principle, but this year's new *Tannhäuser* and revival of *Lohengrin* had a curiously old-fashioned feel. Kupfer shocked us all to the core back in the 1970s, but today seems merely cold and efficient, and as for Schaefer's taste for black-and-white colour schemes, PVC curtains and translucent plastic walls — well, been there, done that.

*Lohengrin*, which Kupfer is reputed to loathe (in 'w'ich case why direct it?), was 'w'ell-off, engaging in none of the usual show-up by the work. It just turned out to be "Elsa's dream". Oh, please. At least *Tannhäuser* had some colourful costumes by Buki Schiff, and Kupfer's depiction of

stuffy, smug Thuringian society satirically, even wittily, turned the prosaic into a mirror. The title role was sung by Robert Gambill. The American tenor proved an inspired choice: his voice has grown, but it retains its steadiness, musicality and lyricism, and he is a superb actor. Casting in both operas was at a luxury level: Waltraud Meier a knock-out as Venus and Ortrud, Angela Denoke a radiant, secure Elisabeth, René Pape as the King in *Lohengrin*.

The Festtage has no trouble attracting audiences. Up to a quarter are said to come from outside Germany, and you have to listen quite hard to hear German spoken in the intervals. More jockeying for position. And one reason for holding the festival at Easter is that the Berlin Philharmonic is in

Salzburg, so the Staatskapelle gets into the Philharmonic. I had hitherto been protected from this preposterous building (all right, the acoustics are fabulous), a concert hall in the round in which the focus of attention of more than 2,000 spectators is concentrated on one figure at its hospice centre, an unfortunate connotation in this particular city. Yes, it was built for Herbert von Karajan, and as in the case of that other impossibly megalomaniac Karajan building, the Grosses Festspielhaus in Salzburg, the only thing to do is pull it down and start again.

Does Europe need a new Karajan figure? If so, I suppose Barenboim could fit the bill. He has the energy, the determination, the political clout. He is on the shortlist for the Berlin Philharmonic and for Bayreuth. He could do it. I just wish he wouldn't. It is time to move on.

ALYN SHIPTON

## No introductions necessary

Dizzy Gillespie had an old gag that went: "Ladies and gentlemen, before we go any further, I'd just like to introduce the band." whereupon he introduced the band members to one another. Today's international jazz community, more impressively represented this year than ever at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, has a different strategy: a monumental opening number with solos all round becomes a kind of handshake with the audience.

When the company is pleasant and the guests have something to say, this convivial habit works rather well. Chick Corea, for example, is built round an acoustic sextet originally led by the bassist Avishai Cohen. This was a tight-knit band playing challenging material even before Corea got involved. Add his compositional skill, keyboard brilliance and deft presentation, and their 35-minute opener, *Double Image*, didn't seem a moment too long. The band thrives on a polyrhythmic complexity provided by Corea and drummer Jeff Ballard, with Cohen hitting and strumming his bass from time to time to add to the rhythmic density.

Whereas the musical conversation of Corea's band sketched, the opening dialogue between Polish pianist Leszek Możdżer and saxophonist Adam Pironczyk, making their UK debut, was harder work. It was 25 minutes into the opening piece, by which time several of the audience had shuffled away, that a magical transformation took place. Instead of their rather earnest free-form introduction, they were suddenly playing gently and interestingly in unison. Their new compositions which followed got better and better.

## JAZZ

I suspect Chico Freeman's opening number would have been longer than anyone else's if his set had not been delayed by some missing instruments. "Perhaps they were hidden deliberately," muttered someone behind me, as the saxophonist's Latin band Guataca launched into its brass set. In Freeman's previous Cheltenham appearances, he has been a paragon of tasteful, witty, and complex modern tenor playing. But now he strutted on stage in a daffodil yellow suit, honking, trilling, and swaying in front of an arsenal

of percussion, and the muscular piano of Hilton Ruiz. The band that followed on the main stage showed just how effectively it is possible to entertain, yet retain the highest musical standards. Joe Lovano broke his trio's opening handshake into three sections, each of which displayed a different aspect of the group. They played with and for one another, Idris Muhammad's powerful drums dropping to the quietest shiver behind Cameron Brown's articulate and full-toned bass.

The most individual opening statement of the festival came from another small group, Dave Douglas's Tiny Bell Trio. Drummer Jim Black combines allusions to the entire drum tradition, inside and outside jazz, into a fluid and exciting style of his own. He is the perfect counterfoil for Douglas. With the guitarist Brad Shepik they tore in and out of Schumann, Jaz Balads, Balkan folk tunes and originals with verve and humour. The audience rewarded them with rousing applause and spontaneous laughter — the kind of reaction that endures not just the handshake, but the entire conversation that follows.

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Circuit Bench Appointments (JGD 1B)  
Lord Chancellor's Department  
Selborne House  
54/60 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6QW  
e-mail: jag.lcdhq@gtnet.gov.uk

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on  
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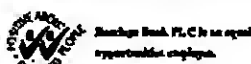
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## LAW

## Cybercrime: policing the Internet

The Net is causing huge global problems says Frances Gibb, below. So far, the US has only tackled this crime nationally, says Steven Philippsohn, and music fraud on the Web is rising, says Tony Morris

Internet crime in America over the past year is said to have jumped by 600 per cent and lawyers are predicting a similar trend for Britain. They want government action against cyberfraud, particularly to protect consumers when they trade on the Net.

Tim Anderson, a partner with Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, says that the Government's proposed e-commerce Bill should be used to introduce such safeguards. At present, the consultation paper, entitled *Building Confidence in Electronic Commerce*, does not contain enough practical suggestions for improving consumer confidence. Mr Anderson believes that the Government needs to act pre-emptively. The National Fraud Information Centre's list of leading Internet crimes includes web auctions (items bid for but never delivered); charges for services thought to be free; empty promises of business opportunities or franchises; false promises of credit cards to people with bad credit histories; and phoney job agencies wanting fees to match people to jobs. Other cons range from bogus investments and false vacation offers to fake scholarship search services and fraudulent prize offers.

But as lawyers grapple with cybercrime, they are also keen to use the Net. Geoff Hoon, Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, at a recent conference on cyberspace pointed to a coming technological revolution in the justice system: a prisoner in the dock might appear on a video screen, dusty legal tomes would cease to exist as all information went on to the Internet and people could get free legal advice via TV access to the Net. Every part of the system would be linked via the Net and citizens would have direct access to Government and to the courts.

FRANCES GIBB



Caught in the Net: David L. Smith, a New Jersey computer hacker, was charged with spreading the Melissa e-mail virus

## Reality of progress bites

The crippling effects of cybercrime were felt this month as Melissa, an electronic mail virus, spread around the world. Last week an FBI cybercrime unit arrested David L. Smith, an American said to have caused such damage that the US military and companies throughout the country had to shut down e-mail systems. The virus is just one example of a new growth industry. Internet crime is expanding rapidly to encompass everything from child pornography to fraud.

The Net is global but law enforcement is national so states are struggling to police it. International co-operation is essential if, paradoxically, the infringement of national liberties and jurisdictions is to be avoided.

The Net's potential dangers have also been in a US court case in Portland, Oregon, that considered the murder of doctors by anti-abortion extremists, after the posting on the Net of the names and addresses of those who perform abortions. The jury awarded \$107 million in damages against the website, but it is worth considering the real extent to which any one jurisdiction can control Net crime.

Concern is growing that legislation now being enacted in America could have a global impact. It purports to have no jurisdictional limits and imposes criminal sanctions. It is the US reaction to the problem of Net crime, a national attempt at an international problem which it can only come close to solving by attempting to abrogate to itself international powers without international recognition.

In Europe the focus has been on combating the use of the Net for the distribution of child pornography. But soon more attention must turn to fighting other cybercrime. The current view is that what is illegal offline is illegal online but policing the Net is not a natural progression from normal policing. Encryption allows drug-smugglers a more secure means to discuss details of their shipments while the growth of e-commerce and e-money provides great potential for money laundering. Hackers can break into and threaten to destroy the systems of commercial en-



Senator Kyl ban on "virtual casinos"

Europe must work together or risk losing control to high-tech criminals

terprises to extort money and indeed such extortion of major London financial institutions has been reported. The nightmare of terrorists hacking into government and defence computer networks could soon become reality.

European states must address the technical difficulties of detecting cybercrime and problems of jurisdiction. Senator Jon Kyl, a Republican from Arizona, is proposing to regulate Net gaming by criminalising "virtual casinos" and those who use them.

Enforcing laws against virtual casinos and other websites used in cybercrime is tricky. Websites can be set up or dismantled overnight in any part of the world, and it is easy to access them.

The proposed US legislation would impose criminal sanctions on foreign companies and nationals whose gaming web-

sites are accessible by American citizens. If such legislation is adopted, the possibility of unwittingly committing a crime on the other side of the world could lead to websites having to be checked for conformity with the laws of every state in which they are accessible.

In general the European approach has been towards co-operation. The EU endorsed an action plan in June 1997 that urged action "to address the abuse of new technologies, including the Internet". The Commission adopted a Green Paper in 1996 that provided guidelines for self-regulation by Internet service providers (ISPs), and self-regulation has been the preferred approach of many European states.

As for illegal website materials in Britain, the Internet Watch Foundation recommends regulation by reporting such material, rating it and apportioning responsibility between ISPs, the police and end users.

There is no common European policy on how to tackle cybercrime, partly because of cultural diversity. Comparisons can be drawn with the US where there have been conflicting judgments. In Boston a judge upheld a federal law prohibiting possession of computer images of child pornography, yet in Philadelphia a judge ruled that a law prohibiting children accessing porn via the Web was incompatible with the right of free speech.

However, some co-operation has developed in policing the Net. Last September the Office of Fair Trading reported its part in an operation by 20 countries to tackle websites responsible for potentially misleading health claims.

UK police have also been involved in operations to bust international paedophile rings that use the Net to transfer pictures and information.

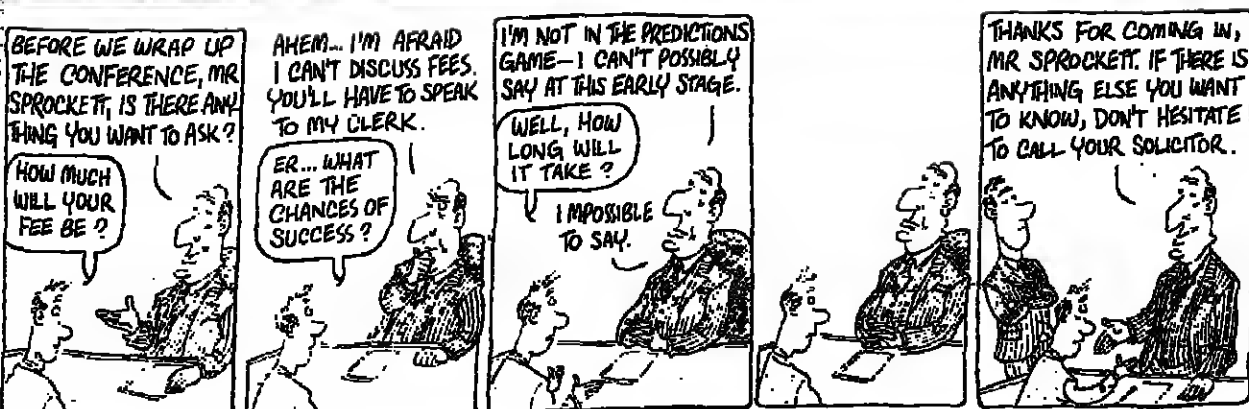
To regulate the Net, more international co-operation is vital. While the US is looking to regulate unilaterally, the European states must work together or risk losing control to high-tech criminals.

STEVEN PHILIPPSOHN

● The author is a partner with Philippsohn Crawford Berwald.

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Uncertain future: for months Habib Tejan, and his two-year-old son Habib, have been waiting for Bridget Seisay to be released from a Belgian jail

## No bail for this boy's mother

The plight of an EU citizen trapped in a Belgian jail highlights the need for a Eurobail system, writes Stephen Jakobi

One Saturday in November last year, Bridget Seisay, a 30-year-old cashier from South London, set out for a weekend break as guest of an ambassador in Bonn, while Habib Tejan, her partner, stayed behind in their South-west home to mind their two-year-old son. Ms Seisay has yet to return because she is imprisoned in Brussels.

Her family has been plunged into crisis: the child has been referred for specialist assessment after exhibiting signs of extreme disturbance at nursery school and Tejan has lost his job. Ms Seisay's case points to the need for a Eurobail system so that "foreign" EU citizens are not automatically remanded in custody while awaiting trial. If Ms Seisay had been Belgian, she would have been home within 24 hours.

The case against her is bizarre. She had bought an air ticket to Germany but travelled home to London by Eurostar with a young woman she had met while staying at the embassy. At the Eurostar entrance in Brussels, the immigration authorities stopped her companion for travelling on a false British passport and since the two women

were travelling together, arrested Ms Seisay. Her cousin, Umaru Wurie, the Sierra Leone Ambassador to Germany, had bought her a Eurostar ticket as a grand gesture so that the two women could travel together.

Perhaps scepticism was initially justified, but when the Ambassador wrote to confirm Ms Seisay's story, that should have been the end of it. Mr Wurie claims that if he had been a white ambassador, she would have been released. The other woman was released and given asylum in Belgium.

As things developed, the prosecution and more than one examining magistrate used the letter as evidence to suggest she was somehow involved in a prostitution racket and that Ms Seisay was his willing accomplice. She was charged with trafficking in human beings and will hear her fate next week.

A workable Eurobail system has been devised and is attracting growing support. The examining magistrate, or his equivalent, would determine whether the offence was "bailable" in the defendant's country and, if so, send the prisoner back to his or her land after registering his court's interest with the justice department of the accused's native country. It would then be the responsibility of the accused's native law enforcement officials to ensure that the accused was delivered to the trying jurisdiction on reasonable notice that he was required for any judicial purpose.

The powers to vary conditions or rescind bail would, between release for bail purposes and a recall requirement, be vested in the accused's native courts. Those concerned about costs of transfer should be reminded that the annual direct cost of keeping someone in custody is at least £20,000 and if the charges concern the breadwinner,

there are also family support costs. Eurobail and other problems of transnational defence have achieved centre-stage over the past few weeks, largely because of concerns over fraud on the Community. The Corpus Juris project, a proposal for the creation of a new crime of "fraud on the Community" and the creation of a European public prosecutors' office to prosecute it, posed civil liberty problems because most of the accused were likely to be facing trial in a foreign country.

A House of Lords committee considering the feasibility of Corpus Juris has taken oral evidence on these problems and is due to issue its report next month. A European Parliament conference on the theme "Liberty, Security and Justice", held last month, achieved broad support for the idea in one of its workshops.

It is now likely that when the heads of government convene in Tampere, Finland, in October to consider the question of securing justice for the citizens of the EU, one of the more important measures before the Council of Ministers will be a Eurobail proposal.

● The author is director of Fair Trials Abroad.

## Why magistrates are a mixed bunch

Being a JP is no longer elitist, says Paula Davies

The public image of the JP is still that of the middle-aged, middle-class do-gooder. The recent advertising drive by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, to attract a broader cross-section of people into the magistracy echoes a similar campaign in 1985. Has nothing changed?

I applied to be a JP in the mid-Seventies and was astounded when appointed. Not only was I a journalist but, according to friends, far too direct. I had visions of sitting among the bearded ladies or blimpish colonels who had nothing better to do. "I have absolutely no desire to sit in judgment," I told the friend who had urged me to apply. So who are the 30,000 men and women who decide 90 per cent of the criminal cases in England and Wales each year? We are a mixed bag of people including factory and office workers, bus and taxi drivers and self-employed business people. I applied to join the Adult Court but was told to apply to the Juvenile — now Youth — section because there was a shortage of such justices. I was asked why, given that I was young and had children, I had not applied to the juvenile court. My reply was that because I had children, I might be unable to see the wood for the trees and might be biased against the little horrors. The end, I thought, of my application. But I was wrong.

The Lord Chancellor's advisory committees, which sift the applications, look at aspects such as age, sex and occupation to achieve a mix on the bench. Lord Irvine caused something of a stir when he arrived in office and said he wanted more Labour-voting JPs. Instead, he insists he wants a broader mix of backgrounds.

Magistrates were always asked their political

affiliations, although one does not have to answer. The main difficulty today is persuading employers to give people time off for this unpaid job. I was fortunate in that my newspaper editor said: "Carry on. Nobody ever learnt anything sitting on their backside in a newspaper office."

So what does it take to be a magistrate? Here I quote from a remarkable man who was one of the best Chief Metropolitan Magistrates, the late Sir David Hopkin. "Patience is a prime requirement," he once told me. "You have to sit and listen. Then you have to have the ability to realise what facts are important and be able to sift them. And you have to be able to recognise and control your own prejudices. When it comes to sentencing, humanity is vital but you have to match that with the public interest. It's no good wheeling someone for a large fine when he's on supplementary benefit."

Today more stipendiaries like Sir David are being used in the courts to speed up justice. Yet he was a lawyer who believed strongly in the lay justice system. "Lay people," he said, "bring their own knowledge and experience to the courts and, by being included in the judicial process, they understand how it works."

There are fewer complaints against the decisions of JPs than against those in the superior courts. Yes, we do get appealed against but I always remember another piece of advice — "Be robust, they can always appeal." Perhaps that should be added to the qualities necessary for a magistrate which, for me, are a just mind, a fair outlook, understanding and imagination.

● Information hotline on becoming a JP: 0845-606 1666



Bainbridge: I like the crime

### PART OF THE COMMUNITY

OLGA BAINBRIDGE, 54, is a retired nurse and sits as a JP at Sedgfield, Co. Durham. She decided to try for the bench when her children were teenagers: "I wanted to feel more a part of the community." Mrs Bainbridge had been interested in the judiciary since visiting a court as part of a group of student nurses. After discussing it with a JP friend of her husband's, she sat in on a few more courts and decided to apply. The interview, with a large committee, was daunting. "They asked me how I'd regard sheep rustling, which was a bit difficult being a town person. I said that in a rural area I thought the penalties would have to be quite strict."

That was ten years ago. Now she is deputy chairman of the family panel. "I like the crime but I love the family work, although there's a lot of trauma, particularly in care cases. And it's no different from when as a nurse I'd care for a terminally ill child. You get upset but you put it behind you."

She would like to see more blue-collar JPs. "We need more ordinary working men and women as well as disabled — the Lord Chancellor has appointed six blind JPs and that is excellent."

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Law practices interested in bidding for this work should in the first instance apply in writing to Mrs D Dakin, Commercial Branch, Defence Estates HQ, Blakesmore Drive, Sutton Coldfield, B75 7EL by 23 April 1999 for a pre qualification questionnaire, which will set out the procedures for bidding and the selection of suitable firms. It is currently envisaged that the Ministry is likely to appoint between 4 and 8 practices to service this requirement.

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# London flies the Stars and Stripes

US firms see the capital as a way into Europe, says Edward Fennell

The number of American law firms in London has grown hugely in the past five years. Spurred on by the importance of London as a financial centre, many of the firms over here since the Seventies have blossomed. At the same time, more American lawyers have arrived in town to carve out territory for themselves.

Major firms such as Weil Gotshal & Manges have been created virtually overnight through a judicious mix of core American partners and big-name British lawyers hired at high salaries from blue-chip firms.

Put it together and you have a multilayered picture of firms big and small, some thoroughly Anglophile, others distinctly expat. The lesson is that not all US law firms are alike.

Take Sidley & Austin, a firm with its roots in the Midwest but a longstanding foothold in London. In the Eighties it had a handful of lawyers tucked up in a cosy suite of offices.

The picture now is very different: it has 63 lawyers and occupies level after level of high-tech office space overlooking the Stock Exchange. But 60 of those 63 lawyers are UK-qualified, most have come from the leading English firms and the ambience of the office is British. (That contrasts, for example, with Freshfields's complement of more than 20 American lawyers in its London office.)

Yet according to Sidley & Austin's Mark Pinder, who leads the corporate group, the firm is definitely a part of the American legal community. Confusing? It is — but only if you ignore the globalisation taking place in legal services. Firms such as Sidley & Austin, White & Case, Jones Day, and Coudert Brothers reflect the boom in the new breed of international law firm. The UK has its own players, such as Clifford Chance, Freshfields, Linklaters and Allen & Overy.

London has become the pivotal centre outside New York for banking, corporate finance and the crucial telecommunications sector. To

back up any claims to be international, US law firms must have a prominent London office. There are said to be more than 100 American law firms in the capital. Take out those that are present for letterhead purposes only and that means about 40 functioning offices and maybe a score with big numbers of lawyers. Those 20 or so represent a roll call of the most important US firms, from Wall Street and the other leading financial and business centres. Firms such as Sullivan & Cromwell, Skadden Arps, Shearman & Sterling, O'Melveny & Myers, Mayer Brown & Platt, Jones Day and White & Case are high-powered firms with successful international operations.

Many will claim to be world leaders in specific fields. Sullivan & Cromwell, for example, is probably one of the top three mergers and acquisitions practitioners in the world and has recently been counsel to BP in its takeover of Amoco, Vodafone in the deal with AirTouch and Olivetti in the link-up with Telecom Italia.

But though many US firms are busy "going native", Sullivan & Cromwell is Stars and Stripes to the core. Often compared to Slaughter & May, the firm is old-school Wall Street, bringing its American expertise and approach to a grateful list of blue-chip clients.

Financial services largely remains the *raison d'être*, but this is being increasingly matched by the use of London as a gateway to Europe.

Many details, however, will be shaped by the firm's American client base. More than 50 per cent of Coudert Brothers' work is corporate, and much of it, says Jones Day's Keith Featherstone, for European subsidiaries of the firm's traditional manufacturing client base in Cleveland.

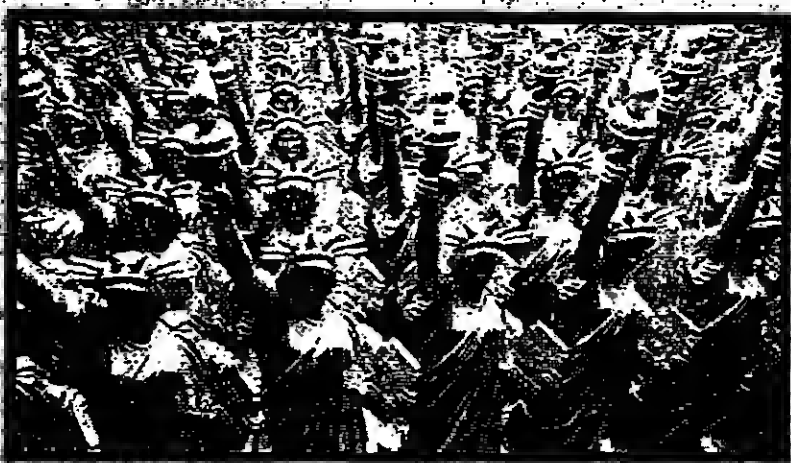
John Bellhouse, of White & Case, predicts "substantial growth" over the next five years. In a business world with few frontiers, the competition has just become much stiffer.



US partners want those who have trained with a Top 20 firm and make big investments in their London businesses

## FIRMS LEADING THE AMERICAN WAY

The leading American law firms in London include Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld; Cravath, Swaine & Moore; Coudert Brothers; Jones Day; Reavis & Pogue; Latam & Watkins; LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae; Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy; O'Melveny & Myers LLP; Rogers & Wells; Shearman & Sterling; Sidley & Austin; Sullivan & Cromwell; Weil Gotshal & Manges; White & Case.



There are said to be more than 100 American law firms in the capital

Risk-takers win high salaries, but only top performers need apply

A big salary is proving to be one of the best weapons in the armoury of American firms as they build their presences in London. As the ZMB advert today for an unnamed client illustrates, seven-figure salaries are seen as realistic prospects for senior partners who can make good contributions to the development of the business.

Even at junior levels, lawyers expect to earn more with US firms. Three-year qualified solicitors are said to earn £60,000-plus with many firms, Edward Fennell writes. But these generous packages do not come without strings. To qualify for the million-plus reward, you will be expected either to bring with you business worth between £3 to £5 million a year or to build up to that very quickly.

The US partners are prepared to make big investments in their budding London businesses and, initially, to carry new recruits. The fairly high casualty rate in some firms reflects the fact that the high expectations on both sides cannot always be realised.

None of this detracts from the importance of the US firms as a source of career opportunity for solicitors at all stages in their careers. A key development in the past year has been the interest of the US firms in taking on trainees. Jones Day, for example, has just had its first trainee qualify and is licensed to take five a year. White & Case has ten trainees and Sidley & Austin 12.

The leading American firms say that they can offer high-quality work in a smaller environment, with the opportunity of greater direct involvement than in their UK equivalents. Inevitably, however, the bulk of recruitment is at assistant or, as the Americans put it, associate level. Though some appointments are made through personal contacts or by people writing in with CVs (White & Case receives more than a dozen unsolicited applications every week), the US firms are now sufficiently part of the mainstream to make use of the usual big-name agencies such as

Quarry Dougal, Lipson Lloyd Jones and Kelly Field. Senior partners such as Philip Burroughs at Coudert Brothers have spent much time with the agencies briefing them on the types of recruit they want.

But having a good legal brain is not enough. In most cases the Americans want people who have trained with a Top 20 firm or a leading niche practice and who have a higher than average level of self-confidence. As Martin Rowley, a Jones Day associate, puts it: "Because our teams are small, you have to take on more responsibility and have greater client contact than in an equivalent large UK firm. You need to have the self-assurance to handle that but also to be willing to ask when you don't know something."

The point on which every US firm agrees is that they seek the adventurous risk-taker who can fit into a wider social group than is usually represented by top London firms.

There are some risks attached to joining an American firm. So if you appear to be on track to a partnership in a British firm should you make the move to a US outfit? There may be attractions in doing a wider range of international work and the financial incentives may be enticing. Certainly, the management of the US firms say that they recruit every associate with a view to their becoming partners.

Selection methods in US firms for partnership are thorough and will involve scrutiny by American partners. In these early days they may err on the side of caution, especially given the number of associates they have recruited.

There is a danger that some British lawyers may not make the grade and then feel obliged to resume the partnership hunt at a lower level elsewhere.

The experience of working for a US firm may look good on a CV but, as everyone points out, there is a price to pay for giving one's allegiance to the Stars and Stripes.

## US LAW FIRMS

Hughes-Castell offers the definitive service to solicitors/attorneys interested in joining US firms in London or the US. For general enquiries please contact Peter Gosden or Scott Gibson.

**DEBT RESTRUCTURING PARTNER** £700,000  
This US firm's London office focuses on Project Finance, M&A and Capital Markets work. The US and UK Capital Markets team undertakes both equity and debt financings and is extremely well regarded for its "high yield" debt practice. A Restructuring specialist would ideally complement, and work closely with, both the Project Finance and Capital Markets teams. Ref: 9452. Contact: Peter Gosden.

**CORPORATE FINANCE** £500,000  
This top US firm has a "recession proof" client base and a truly unique and long term approach to clients. They now seek either a junior corporate lawyer (4-6 PQE), to whom they offer excellent medium term prospects, or a partner (min 8 years PQE). No following is required as an existing quality channel of yellow and blue book work requires immediate attention. Ref: 9942. Contact: Scott Gibson.

**UK LAW FIRMS** To £70,000  
This is a medium-sized City firm which stands out from the rest by having one of the strongest reputations in the property field but also a young and dynamic culture. The team's split department of 250 seeks 2 further lawyers (2-6 years' PQE) to handle all aspects of property investment and dealing, development projects, management, landlord and tenant etc. Ref: 9823. Contact: Pauline Gullifer.

**IT (NON-CONTENTIOUS)** To £55,000  
The IT and Internet Group of this City firm much admired for its IT practice has eight specialists and needs two more entrepreneurial lawyers (1-4 years' PQE) who would enjoy the young, fun and relaxed environment. Burgeoning work includes e-commerce, outsourcing, data-protection internet and digital related media for a client base that will amaze you. Ref: 9826. Contact: Pauline Gullifer.

**PATENTS** To £60,000  
This is a wonderful opportunity to join the IP department of this City firm, widely renowned as one of the leading IP groups in Europe. You will have 2-4 years' PQE in a mix of contentious and non-contentious patents work, have a science background and will thrive in a supportive team acting for highest-profile clients. Ref: 9878. Contact: Pauline Gullifer.

**COMMERCIAL/BANKING LITIGATION - NQ-1** £25,000  
Have you completed at least one litigation seat during your training and are interested in joining a top 15 firm which is one of the premier UK banking practices? You will assist on a portfolio of large commercial debt recovery work and have the ability to quickly win the confidence of clients and work well in a team. Outstanding package. Ref: 9418. Contact: Jane Glasberg.

**EMPLOYMENT - PARTNER DESIGNATE** 3-6 Years' PQE  
The circa 10 lawyer employment department is a core practice group in this well known, popular, Holborn firm. They have succeeded in doubling their business in the last three years and now seek an additional assistant who will have a key role in further developing the team. Ref: 9041. Contact: Jane Glasberg.

**SUMMER '99 QUALIFIERS** £33,000-£50,000  
If you are unsure of your position on qualifying or merely in need of employment and informed career advice, please feel free to give us a call. We have over 100 instructions in the areas of: Telecoms, IT, Finance, Insurance, private client, NQ instructions in the areas of: property, employment, EC Competition, banking, projects, PFI, construction, property, employment, EC Competition, banking, corporate, commercial and litigation. Ref: 1988. Contact: Jane Glasberg.

**CORPORATE INSOLVENCY** To £55K  
Top 10 City and International firm with a client centred approach has a vacancy for a 1-3 years' qualified non-contentious insolvency solicitor. You will be advising on all aspects of corporate insolvency, restructuring and refinancing. Clients are top notch, including company directors, administrators, receivers, liquidators and creditors. Ref: 9395. Contact: Aida Martin.

**EC COMPETITION** £25,000  
If you're worth your salt you'll know this firm is... City firm with newly informed WTO team. The team has a rare vacancy for a 2-4 years' qualified fluent French and English speaker with solid experience of EC Competition including notifications. Role includes advising member states on competition matters such as resolution of disputes and customs law including anti-dumping. Ref: 9876. Contact: Aida Martin.

**FINANCIAL SERVICES** To £55K  
City firm acting for unit trusts, life offices, building societies and other financial institutions needs a 3-5 years' qualified financial services lawyer for its team. You will advise on offshore funds, compliance, derivative contracts and global custody banking. Culture is friendly and informal. Ref: 9264. Contact: Aida Martin.



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Ricard scores the goal that gave Middlesbrough the lead against Charlton. The Colombia striker also set up the second goal for Mustoe. Photograph: Stu Forster/Allsport

# Ricard and Campbell work their magic charms

**W**ith most FA Carling Premiership teams having played two matches since Easter Monday, there have been some big scores achieved this week by the leading Fantasy League managers. In all, 28 teams scored 35 points or more, with the weekly winner, Silver Charm, selected by Wei Tieng Lee, of Singapore, scoring 45, four points ahead of the nearest challenger.

Silver Charm was entered for *The Times* Fantasy League late last month, with the express aim of claiming one of the prizes of £500 plus £100 worth of sports equipment. "I didn't see any chance of getting in the top 100, so I entered some teams to try to win a weekly or even a monthly prize," Wei, 31, who works in environment management, said. "I tailored my teams to the fixtures, but I'm still surprised that I won it."

He is too modest: the performance of his team proves how cleverly he chose his initial XI, and how wisely he used the transfers at his disposal. His two top scorers were transferred in after only five days of the month at just the right time to take advantage of good opportunities to shine.

Kevin Campbell, brought in from Trabzonspor, of Turkey, by Walter Smith, the Everton manager, in what some saw as a desperate last throw of the dice, earned Wei eight points over the two games he



played for his new club last week. "I heard the news that he was coming to Everton," Wei said. "I'd seen him play before, and my feeling was that he was going to score for Everton. And he got two goals on Sunday."

An even better hunch was the one that brought in Hamilton Ricard, of Middlesbrough, to replace Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, of Leeds United. "Ricard is

really hitting form," Wei explained. "Middlesbrough had two home games and gave a good home record." Put like that, it sounds so simple.

Ricard's revelatory form is certainly noteworthy. At times last season, he looked completely out of place and out of form as Middlesbrough seemed to score goals despite, rather than because of, the

Colombian. This season, however, with Brian Deane as his regular partner instead of Mikkel Beck, he has delighted the crowds at the Riverside Stadium, scoring 15 goals so far. Against Charlton Athletic on Saturday, he gave his team the lead and set up the second goal for Robbie Mustoe. Two goals against Wimbledon on Easter Monday gave him 11 points for the week.

Other Silver Charm scorers included Benito Carbone (6 points), Steve Guppy (6), Colin Cooper (5), Temuri Ketsbaia (3), Scott Minto (3) and David Seaman (3). Wei is a supporter of Liverpool, but any loyalty he felt to his favourites took second place to the demands of Fantasy League success, and he resisted the temptation to select any Anfield-based players. "I see that they are not doing that well," he said.

□ Even if your team's performance was disappointing, you can still be a prizewinner. If your team total, based on the player lists (right), comes to 5 or 8, follow the instructions below and you could win this week's ON-Target prize of £500.

□ For legal reasons, *The Times* Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 and under already entered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competitions.

# Value hunters cannot ignore Arsenal

**I**t is often a contentious issue for managers in *The Times* Fantasy League which positions can make or break your Fantasy team?

The headlines in Fantasy League, as in football in general, tend to go to the strikers — after all, they are generally the players who score the most points. But if the issue is viewed in terms of value for money, there are some surprising results.

Top of the list for value is Martin Keown, the Arsenal centre back, who has contributed 55 points to all those managers who were willing to spend £4.1 million on his services. His team-mate, Lee Dixon, is second, with David Seaman, Tony Adams and Nigel Winterburn also among the top dozen, proving that Arsenal are value for money. In fact, the top 12 in the bargain bucket are all

goalkeepers or defenders. Michael Ball, of Everton, Ian Harte, of Leeds United, and Steve Guppy, of Leicester City, have all proved to be excellent value.

Want to make one of your 12 transfers? Call 0640 625 102 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4292) 0640 calls cost 60p per minute Ex UK calls charged at national rates

Dwight Yorke is the best-value striker available, followed by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Hamilton Ricard. In retrospect, £10.5 million spent on Michael Owen ooh seems to have been too much, but still looks better value than the £10.1 million for Alan Shearer. However, perhaps a thought should be spared for all those managers owning a certain Stanley Collymore, with each of the Aston Villa player's

TOP 12 IN THE BARGAIN BUCKET		
1	Phil Clarke	Sheff Wed United
2	Alfonsie Welford	These Ext Bears
3	Mark Coles	Joe Public
4	Phil Tuer	Peter 7
5	James Kerr	Serious Squad
6	Mike Shipley	Minor Threat
7	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan III
8	Sarahjot Kobi	Junglemen
9	Robert Little	Broken Arrow
10	Matthew O'Neill	The M Team
11	Phil Tuer	Pin-Ups
12	Mike Shipley	Cosmopolitan III
13	Sarahjot Kobi	Junglemen
14	Richard Deane	On The Wagon
15	David Edmondson	Edmo Utd Minton
16	Richard Minter	Benidorm Dancers
17	David Young	Dave 10
18	Thomas Bailey	Rural Raiders
19	David Wise	Wastast Reserves
20	Robin Harbridge	Chequers Champ
21	Forbes Leathman	Spike Town
22	David Wiley	Tilly FC
23	Stephen Baines	In The City
24	Jason Wynne	Coot Rangers
25	Scott Burt	Taffy's Terrors
26	Gordon Crutchley	Super Saddlers B
27	Jennifer Cockburn	Yeah Right
28	Darren Sawyer	Finchleystars
29	Scott Burt	Scotts Stars
30	Terry Bullen	El Tel's Revenge
31	Tom Fidler	Real Datsman
32	Raymond George	Pazor D
33	Billy Kothari	Milleniumbuggins
34	Lacy Crosthwaite	I Hate Football
35	Javalant Popat	Popat's Army
36	Steven Walls	Team Slavo
37	Jo Tinsley-Crowe	The Future's Red
38	Nathan Carroll	Nath's Champs
39	John Lofthouse	Solid At The Bar
40	Philip Morton	Shall Vanil
41	John Humphreys	Academicals
42	Michael Scalfs	Allidokowshygo
43	L. Senouss	Spazak Moseley
44	James Inglis	Pride O The Rock
45	Colin Head	Headstart Guard
46	John Minter	Metodymiller
47	Carol Flint	The Baggage Boys
48	Matthew Watson	Matts Magic
49	Tim Gardner	Harchester Who?
50	Mark Scrovello	Harold's Croons
51	Henrietta Ball	Henri & Goals UU
52	Tom Summers	Garrichou

# Are you on target to win £500?

**C**ongratulations to Sarah Harvey, of Northwood, Middlesex, the main winner of ON-Target from last week. Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you could win:

- 1st prize: £500 plus EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners-up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners-up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the PlayStation; FIFA 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, keyring and mini football plus a record bag.

If you already have a team in the main game, you are ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. You can enter at any time and there is no limit to how many teams you can enter.

**THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE**

Has your team scored...

## 5 or 8

points?

Check your total, then ring

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Calls charged at national rates

## FANTASY LEAGUE SERVICES

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To check your team's standing

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(ex-UK +44 870 901 4292)

**TRANSFER LINE**

To alter your team

**0640 625 103**

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0640 calls cost 60p per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

**FAXBACK**

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**HELPLINE**

for any queries

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All information provided by Fantasy League Ltd.  
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## CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).									
GOALKEEPERS									
102	D. Seaman	ARS	3	43	3.7				
103	A. Manninger	AST	1	14	2.9				
104	M. Bates	AST	1	1	2.2				
105	A. Hinch	BLA	0	4	2.6				
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John Hopkins on the remarkable return of a golfer who feared that he had played his last round

# Olazabal walks tall to place in Masters history

Late on a soft, sunlit evening in Georgia, golf reminded us once more what a remarkable game it is for identifying champions who are gentle men and gentlemen. Sport is not overflowing with heroes who conduct their lives to the highest standards. Golf has more than its share at the moment.

In reverse finishing order in the 63rd Masters, there was Greg Norman, proving himself once again to be arguably the best loser in sport. Norman's gracious smile never wavered as yet again he came up short in a major championship. It was the ninth time in 19 Masters that he had finished in the top ten and the eighth time he had finished fifth or better.

Imagine how much he must have wanted to win after the drubbing that he received from Nick Faldo in 1996, and imagine how much the spectators, who adopted him as their sentimental favourite, would have liked to see him succeed. Yet when he came third on Sunday, he graciously took off his cap, patted José María Olazábal on the back on the 18th green and said quietly: "Go, do it."

"He is a good person," Norman said of Olazábal. "He takes the time to make sure that you're OK. He's got a game of golf and he's a great competitor. He cares about things that go on around him."

Then there was Davis Love III, who comes from one of the game's aristocratic families. Love, the 1997 US PGA champion, has a special link with Augusta. He was born the day after the conclusion of the 1964

tournament, at which his father finished 31st, and he held hopes of winning his first Masters two days before celebrating his 35th birthday today. He finished second, two strokes behind Olazábal.

"He's a fighter and a scrambler," Love said of the winner. "When he had his foot problems, we heard he was done playing, he would never come back."

Most of all, there was Olazábal. On Sunday evening, the tributes were paid to a softly-spoken Spaniard with a fine command of colloquial English as he slipped on the green jacket. It was the same one as



he had been given when he won in 1994. It was a popular victory not only because of Olazábal's ability and nerve, but also because of the knowledge that the man who had walked so strongly for 72 holes, who had concentrated so hard and played so skillfully to overcome one of the strongest fields on the final day of a major championship in the history of golf, had three years ago been prostrate on a sofa in his home.

Olazábal was thought to be suffering from rheumatoid arthritis in his feet until a chance meeting with Dr Hans-Wilhelm Müller-Wohlfahrt, a doctor in Munich,

altered the diagnosis to an injury to his lower back and led to a change in treatment.

In the darkest days of 1996, Olazábal wanted nothing more than solitude. "I thought I would never play golf again," he said. "Everybody was suffering. My lowest was in the summer of 1996 and the autumn. Watching the Masters on TV was not very pleasant, knowing that you had a right to be there and not being able to play. That made it really hard." His parents and sister tried to console him, but Olazábal said that he was "feeling so low that I did not want them to see me in this way".

Olazábal's total of 280 was the highest winning score this decade and emphasised just how difficult the course was playing. There were a number of reasons. By Sunday, two greens — the 14th and 17th — were rock hard. The new rough was also a factor and so was the lengthening of the 2nd and 17th holes. The 17th went from being one of the easiest holes to one of the most difficult, with a stroke average of 4.3.

It is also rare at Augusta to have a wind blowing so strongly for so long. On several days, in particular on Sunday, if you had stood near the 1st tee, shut your eyes and listened to the snapping and cracking of the flags, you would have been forgiven for thinking that this was an Open Championship at Royal St George's or Royal Lytham, not the Masters.

Enduring the pain as he did has made Olazábal a more rounded person and, perhaps, a better golfer. He said that his swing is better than when he won in 1994 and certainly his temperament is calmer. He is less hard on himself.

Most of all, he is aware of the priorities of his life. But for the treatment administered in Germany, Olazábal would not be where he is today. He was born of humble stock and, if anything, he is even more humble now.

The decency in him is transparent. He was asked what would be the first thing he would do when he returned to Spain, where he will compete in the Spanish Open next week. Tears welled in his eyes and for several moments he buried his head in his hands. "I will embrace my family for sure." A noble sentiment from a gentle man.



Fitting finale: Mark O'Meara, the 1998 champion, helps Olazábal into the winners' green jacket after his popular two-stroke triumph at Augusta

## Great drama and memorable strokes

Olazábal's composure over the closing stretch was combined with high skill and great courage

WHAT Lee Westwood said about the difficulty of the last nine holes at Augusta confirmed a Masters truism — that the pressure of a major championship combined with the perils of the homeward half mean that you are dancing with disaster.

Westwood, out in 33 on Sunday afternoon, had just taken a share of the lead. Now, he stood on the 10th tee, the highest point of the course, metaphorically on top of the world. It was only his third Masters and he had a chance of winning it. He looked down the plunging fairway, noted the wind that was causing the pine trees to his left to sway vigorously and shuddered. "I was so nervous my stomach was in knots," he said later. "It made me feel sick and I don't mind admitting it."

Sure enough, Augusta National slapped Westwood

across the face. He dropped four strokes in the next three holes, but rallied by getting birdies on the 13th and 15th and finished in a tie for sixth place. To drop four strokes in three holes and then play the last six in two under par takes courage.

The 1999 Masters entered its crucial phase when Greg Norman and José María Olazábal, friends as well as rivals and the last two men on the course, arrived on the 13th tee. Olazábal was six under par after holing a 12ft putt on the 10th; Norman, who had been five under at the turn, had birdied the 11th but dropped a stroke on the 12th and was back to five under.

Others would flit in and out of the scene for the next 90 minutes, but, essentially, it was between Olazábal and Norman, the second time in four years that the Australian had been in direct competition with a European here.

On the 13th, Norman hit a booming tee shot with a three-wood, struck a four-iron to 25ft and sank the putt for an eagle three. As the ball disappeared, he raised his left hand and shot Olazábal a look. Norman was in the lead, but it was a lead that lasted less than a minute because Olazábal holed from 18ft for his birdie, raised a finger and flashed Norman a quick smile.

Olazábal took the lead on the 14th, where Norman three-putted from the fringe, and a one-stroke lead became two at the 15th, where Norman had to hit his third shot when there was some mud on the ball. It flew into a bunker and he took his second bogey of the half and fourth of the day. Up ahead, Davis Love III entered the reckoning by holing an outrageous chip at the 16th, his ball easing its way some 25ft down the slope before dropping into the hole to put him six under.

Olazábal's first devastating putt of this half was on the 13th. Now came his second. On the 16th, his six-iron landed well to the right of the flag and was brought round to 3ft past and above the hole by the green's contours. Olazábal may be one of the world's worst drivers, but he is one of

### FINAL SCORES FROM AUGUSTA

United States unless stated

280: J M Olazábal (Sp) 70, 66, 73, 71; 282: D Love III (Ir) 69, 72, 70, 71; 283: G Norman (Aus) 71, 68, 72, 71; 284: S Faldo (Eng) 71, 72, 69, 72; 285: D Duval (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 286: J Pate (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 287: J Furyk (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 288: J Els (SA) 71, 74, 70, 70; 289: J Costello (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 290: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 291: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 292: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 293: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 294: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 295: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 296: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 297: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 298: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 299: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70; 300: J L Taylor (US) 71, 74, 70, 70

76, 292: F Couples (US) 74, 71, 76, 71; 293: S Cink (US) 74, 70, 71, 71; 294: E Els (SA) 71, 72, 69, 80; 295: S Matsuyama (Japan) 76, 70, 71, 74; 296: T Lehman (US) 72, 73, 73, 75; 297: B Watts (US) 73, 73, 70, 77; 298: J Sorenstam (US) 75, 70, 78, 74; 299: A Mearns (US) 77, 72, 76, 69; 300: A Mearns (US) 77, 72, 76, 69; 301: J Hiestand (US) 72, 71, 77, 79; 302: M Brooks (US) 72, 75, 72, 75; 303: S Garcia (Sp) 72, 75, 75, 73; 304: W Andrusik (US) 72, 72, 72, 73; 305: J Floyd (US) 73, 72, 72, 73; 306: C Stadler (US) 72, 76, 70, 77; 307: S Snicker (US) 72, 69, 79, 79; 308: J Hesse (US) 69, 75, 72, 73; 309: T McDermott (US) 74, 73, 72, 71; 310: T Hendrix (US) 69, 74, 75, 76; 311: S Hoch (US) 75, 73, 70, 73; 312: C Pary (US) 75, 73, 77; 313: A Lyle (GB) 71, 71, 70, 80; 314: M Vachon (US) 71, 73, 78, 78; 315: C Fry (US) 72, 74, 80, 80; 316: H Tway (US) 73, 76, 74, 74; 317: S Stewart (US) 73, 77, 75, 75; 318: O Browne (US) 74, 72, 80; 319: J Daly (US) 72, 78, 71, 81; 320: T Immenhuth (SA) 72, 76, 76, 73

\* denotes amateur

## Savouring the hole where it all happened

On Sunday afternoon, just as the leaders were getting stuck in to the back nine, I had a failure of nerve at the 15th green. Was this the right moment to abandon this excellent grandstand spot overlooking the par five (with good views of the par three 16) and make a dash for the 18th? I stood up. I sat down. I made a pathetic whining noise and studied my once-pristine pairings list, now brown and dog-eared from excessive handling in sultry conditions. Was that midweek? Or a bit of old egg sandwich? It did seem damn to go now, just as David Duval and Stewart Cink were approaching. Duval was three under and still in the running. I had no idea what to do.

The security man made my mind up for me. This nice Southern gent had been a good friend already — advising me (for example) not to sit where photographers gathered "because I wouldn't want them to hurt you". And now he said stay put, because "this is where it will all happen". So I sat down and checked the scoreboard once again. Leading at five under par were José María

Olazábal, Steve Pate and Bob Estes; on four under were David Duval, Greg Norman, Davis Love III and Lee Janzen. Lee Westwood, who had shared the lead momentarily, had now dropped back to one under. I repeated the pathetic whining noise. In respect of drama — not to mention humidity — this was one of the closest days I had ever experienced.

Basically, there were too many things to look at, too many things to hear. Far-off roars and groans told you that something was happening somewhere, but not exactly what. We deduced quickly that the scoreboard on the 15th was updated more promptly than ours and that the roars from that vicinity sometimes concerned scores we didn't yet know about. All afternoon it was the same. An out-of-control player would make his nifty third shot across our lake; meanwhile on the 16th, Jim Furyk might be making birdie on one of the most difficult greens in the world. But we just couldn't concentrate, because, up on the giant board, Greg Norman's score had been tilted back for adjustment and as it flipped back into view, we'd all shout "He

### LYNNE TRUSS



At Augusta

birdied!" and then hold our breath until we found out what Olazábal had done as well.

Anyway, the security man was right. We saw Nick Price slip from contention at the 15th, after a fabulous 30-foot chip took him 3ft from the hole, and he missed the putt. Ernie Els had a double bogey — his approach shot not just missing the

green but actually jumping into the lake right over on the 16th in a desperate "So long, cruel world" gesture. Tiger Woods made an elegant understated birdie; David Duval narrowly missed an eagle; Steve Pate made birdie to keep him in contention at six under. And then, finally, along came Norman and Olazábal, over the ridge, in the last segment of their heroic battle.

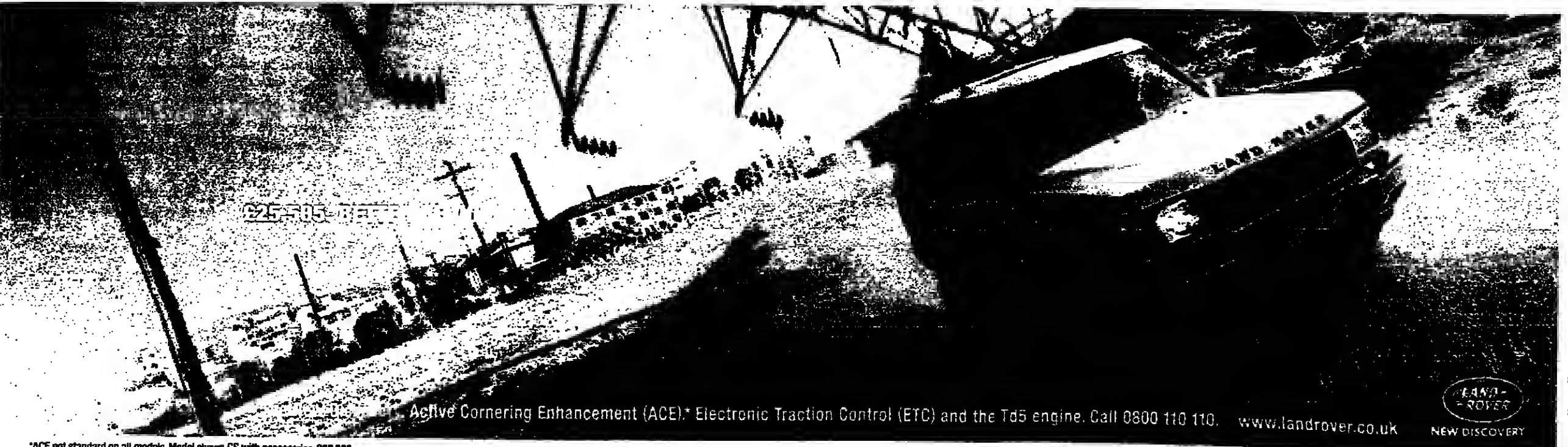
We had heard the roar from the 13th, of course. They'd have heard it in Atlanta. That was when Norman went to seven under — and into the lead — only for Olazábal's birdie to take him to seven under as well. On the 14th, Norman had dropped a stroke, but as the two men approached our hole at last ( hoorah), Norman was emphatically still in it, tied in second place (at six under) with Love and Pate. Elsewhere, Pate slipped to five under. Good. Norman took his approach shot with a sand-wedge and landed up in the front bunker. We tried not to panic, but we knew things didn't look promising for that wished-for Norman conquest. Olazábal was playing with his usual glacial slowness, but

was thrillingly precise. He made par on the 15th, while Norman had a bogey. And at the 16th, Olazábal's short and brilliant three-foot birdie putt (as against Norman's par) won him the tournament. He was magnificent on that hole and, as far as the gallery was concerned, it was all over.

I feel I must report that the parallel tournament for most difficult hole at the Masters turned out much the same way. You may recall I was backing the 12th for sentimental reasons. Well, like Greg Norman, the 12th hole narrowly missed victory yet again and came in runner-up to the 4th — an easily overlooked contender, as it happens, much like Olazábal. Those flashier holes, the 17th and 15th (equivalent to Duval and Woods), finished third and fifteenth, tee-ee. Norman said on Sunday night that he felt 80 per cent success and 20 per cent failure. I hope the 12th is feeling much the same way (you were robbed, 12, you were brilliant!) and will similarly be determined to come back next year and do it all again.



Norman embraces Olazábal on the 18th green after the Spaniard had holed out to claim his second Masters title



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RUGBY UNION: WOODWARD MUST WORK ON WEAKNESSES EXPOSED BY CELTIC TRIUMPHS

# England forced to regroup

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AS THE Five Nations Championship was laid to rest over the weekend, it was not only Scotland and Wales who had cause to rejoice. The championship has given rugby union throughout the British Isles a massive fillip, upon which the clubs can capitalise as the domestic season approaches a climax and which will surely prove of benefit in the autumn, when the fourth World Cup begins.

Scotland duly received the championship trophy at Murrayfield last night, apt reward for a brand of rugby that has brought 16 tries in their four matches — twice the number scored by England, the runners-up — and established a record of 120 points, 30 more than their highest previous aggregate, in 1997. Their enterprise has provided a country still riven over the future of its leading clubs with a focal point of inestimable value.

The same is true for Wales, though Graham Henry, their coach and ever the realist, gave warning that the southern hemisphere will have taken due note before arriving for the World Cup. Forewarned is forearmed and Henry will tell his players that, however heroic their last-minute win over England on Sunday, they have won nothing yet of substance.

He will beat his players with the rod of points leaked, 126 of them, which is more than Wales have ever conceded in the championship, but Henry has reminded not only his squad but also an entire country of their heritage and of what is possible in the new professional era. Wales can warm themselves with self-respect and the regard of others. At this stage of their development, that is enough.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, is also a hard man to ignore. He and his players retreated to a private dinner on Sunday night and Woodward emerged yesterday morning to assert that his team is in good shape.

"I don't think any team in the world will be keen to play England," Woodward said. "Ever since I took this job, I have been determined to get England to the World Cup in a state where we can beat any side. I don't think previous sides have done that."

"We won't lose to the All



### DAVID HANDS'S FIVE NATIONS DREAM TEAM

**Full back (15)** • Shane Hewarth (Wales)  
**Right wing (14)** • Dan Luger (England)  
**Centre (13)** • Gregor Townsend (Scotland)  
**Centre (12)** • John Leslie (Scotland)  
**Left wing (11)** • Christophe Dominici (France)  
**Fly half (10)** • Neil Jenkins (Wales)  
**Scrum half (9)** • Kyran Bracken (England)  
**Lock-head prop (1)** • Tom Smith (Scotland)  
**Hooker (2)** • Gordon Ballloch (Scotland)  
**Tight-head prop (3)** • Franck Tournaire (France)  
**Lock (4)** • Martin Johnson (England)  
**Lock (5)** • Scott Hastings (Scotland)  
**Blind-side flanker (6)** • Lawrence Dallaglio (England)  
**Open-side flanker (7)** • Richard Hill (England)  
**No 8** • Eric Peters (Scotland, captain)

### REPLACEMENTS

**16** Gary Armstrong (Scotland)  
**17** Jonny Wilkinson (England)  
**18** Glenn Metcalfe (Scotland)  
**19** Colin Charvis (Wales)  
**20** Chris Wyatt (Wales)  
**21** Jason Leonard (England)  
**22** Richard Cockerill (England)

Blacks by 40 or 50 points. In 1991, England lost to a poor All Blacks side in the opening match, might have lost to Scotland in the semi-finals and lost the final. In 1995, they were stuffed by the All Blacks. I believe this side now is right up there with the top sides in the world in the way we are playing, the squad we have and the potential we can add to it."

This is a view shared by critics in the southern hemisphere, but Wales did England a favour by winning at Wembley. It was a sharp reminder of English inadequacies: that they are not a world-beating force in the set-pieces, that they do not score the points their approach-work suggests that they should and that their back division still needs definition.

‘Wales may have done them a favour by reminding them of their inadequacies’

The prospect of Woodward being able to take Will Greenwood and Paul Grayson — who started the season as his first-choice centre and fly half — to Australia in May for the month-long training camp is remote. Greenwood, who has not played for six months, hopes to test his groin injury in a fortnight, but Woodward

is not optimistic. Northampton do not believe that Grayson will be ready to train until July after suffering a stress fracture of his pubic bone.

In their absence, the shape of the midfield has changed. The defence has improved, but it is not impregnable, as Scotland and Wales have shown. In attack, individuals have been isolated too easily and only limited use has been made of Matt Perry from full back.

Mike Catt has had his moments and Jonny Wilkinson has fitted into the side with astonishing maturity for a 19-year-old, but the England back division will not frighten the powers from the southern hemisphere.

In his defence, Woodward can claim justifiably that, because of injuries, there has

not been a match in the past 18 months when he could pick from the best players at his disposal. This has given Wilkinson his chance, as it has Steve Hanley — who will be out for a month after breaking his wrist during his try-scoring debut against Wales — Dan Luger and Barrie-Jon Mather.

Woodward is two-thirds of the way towards the ambitious style that he seeks. He has internationalists against Australia, Canada and the United States in which to build on the principles he has laid down, plus two warm-up games in September against domestic opposition. The players he wants will be available to him on a more or less continual basis from May through to October 2, when England's World Cup begins against Italy. It has to be enough for him.

## Dallaglio to sit out vital clash

By DAVID HANDS

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO, the England captain, will rest from his labours tonight when Wasps meet Northampton at Loftus Road in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, a match crucial to the hopes of both clubs in terms of qualification for Europe. Northampton, still with games in hand, also maintain their pursuit of Leicester at the top of the first division.

Dallaglio is recovering from the rigours of Sunday's Five Nations Championship epic against Wales, but he is in better shape than his Wasps colleagues, Kenny Logan and Rob Henderson. They returned from weekend internationals with Scotland and Ireland with a damaged ankle and a broken nose respectively. Indeed, Henderson received such a bad knock against Italy that he may not play again until the end of the month.

Their places go to Shane Roiser and Mark Denney, with Eben Rolitt replacing Dallaglio in the back row and Andy Reed joining Simon Shaw at lock, in the absence of Mark Weir, the Wasps captain, who has damaged an elbow. There is also a change at scrum half, where Mike Friday replaces Martyn Wood.

"We want to keep the momentum going and it will be a tough challenge," Nigel Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said. He is mindful of the fact that he has an equally hard game with Newcastle on Sunday, which may be a dress rehearsal for the Teddy's Bitter Cup final next month but is also vital to Newcastle's hopes of European competition.

Northampton have named a squad of 23, including their own international players from England and Scotland, but their starting line-up will not be confirmed until today. Physical checks will be made on Tim Rodber and Matt Dawson, of England, and on Budge Pountney, who shared in Scotland's triumph in Paris on Saturday.

fan McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said: "In some ways, the best thing for them could be to play this game, but it's asking a lot of them after a weekend like they have had."

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The Mission: The Great Balloon Race  
BBC1, 10.35pm (Northern Ireland, 11.20pm)

A special edition of *The Mission* recounting the extraordinary tale of the world's first balloon flight undertaken by Brian Jones and Bertrand Picard aboard the *Breitling Orbiter 3*. On March 21 this year, Brian Jones and the Swiss Picard stepped out of their capsule and into the history books as the first men successfully to complete the non-stop circumnavigation of the globe in a balloon. This film follows the entire project, with behind-the-scenes footage, insights into the preparation for the event and a look at the competition with Richard Branson, whose previous attempts at the challenge had failed. It also records the trip itself, documenting the countless obstacles that the three men had to overcome. A fascinating adventure. Ian Hughes



The balloonists Bertrand Picard and Brian Jones: *The Mission* (BBC, 10.35pm)

Queer As Folk  
Channel 4, 10.30pm

Russell T. Davies's eight-part drama series ends fairly neatly, with the underdog Nathan running off to London accompanied by his friend Donna. Meanwhile, it looks as though nothing will ever break the unspoken bond between Stuart and Vince. Constant exposure to the self-centredness of Stuart, Vince and Nathan, all selflessly played by Aidan Gillen, Craig Kelly and Charlie Hunnam, has meant that this viewer's sympathies, when in the past, have been with minor characters such as Hazel (Denise Black), Roy (Paul Copley) and Romy (Esther Hall). I am not sure whether I would wish to renew acquaintance with the three principals, but I wish to know what happens next. Is another series on the way?

Supernatural  
BBC1, 8.30pm

I continue to disagree with both the title and much of the commentary of this series, the work of the writer/producer John Downer, but I cannot deny that it is beautifully crafted and a pleasure to watch. Among the prodigies of nature (and not

supernatural phenomena) on show tonight are the ladybirds which infallibly predict the severity of winter weather; creatures as disparate as elephants, catfish and tarantulas anticipating earthquakes. Plus, a look at how lunar tides seem to occur in plants, just as they do in bodies of water (not actually such a far-fetched idea, when you think about it). The photography, whether real or virtual, is stunning; the arguments, much less mesmerising. Good for provoking spirited debate.

Betting: Are You Being Cheated?  
Channel 5, 8pm

Nick Hudson's ITN film is a less-than-comprehensive look at shady dealings in the horse racing and greyhound racing worlds: from an unlicensed on-course bookie who ran off with punters' bets at the Epsom Derby meeting, to a very forthright chap who actually changed the greyhound results as printed in the *Racing Post* the day after the race. Along the way, John McCreesh, Channel 4's irritatingly tactless, gives us some very cautious readings of races in which jockeys have been alleged not to have tried hard enough, or where horses have been found to have been tranquillised. Tony Patrick

### RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Summoned by Shelves  
Radio 4, 2.15pm

It is only minimally important that this marvellously mad play, written by Lynne Truss of *The Times*, was recorded in an old timber-framed library somewhere in North London. It would have proved no less of a hoot if the producer Brian King had transported his cast and technicians to a bus shelter somewhere in Dulwich. I don't much like the weak Benjaminian pun in the title. The play is set in a university library and the plot is propelled by such bibliographical considerations as which books should dwell on which shelves. There are smashing performances all round, especially Rachel Atkins's unwittingly disruptive teenager and John Rowe's chief librarian whose appetite for her is catalogued under L for lust.

### RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 3.00pm Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 The Evening Session 10.00 Digital Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 The Breakfast Show 2.00am Dave Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

### RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake up to Wogan 9.30 Richard Ayrton 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Carl Davis Classics (2/13) 8.00 Nigel Ogden 8.00 West Street Blues. Dick Voornburg presents a portrait of the American Depression 10.00 John Peel's New World (2/7) 10.30 Lynn Parsons 12.00 Kirstine Lushkatch 2.00am Alan Leslie

### RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ian Payne. Live news and sports reports of the day. Plus, commentary from day one of the Open meeting in Newmarket, including the Half Century Stakes 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match, including two Division One fixtures — Burny v Sunderland and Port Vale v Bradford 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

### TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 8.00 Scott Chesham & Sally Innes. *Listeners' Journeys* 2.00pm Concerto. *Island* (Sinfonia Concertante in E flat major) 3.00 James Cook Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 5.30 Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Burningham 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Burningham introduces classical sounds 8.00 Evening Concert. Bar (Overture to *Adventures* in Music (Symphony in G minor), Gordon Jacob (Symphony No 2 in C major), Vaughan Williams (Variations for Orchestra) 11.00 *Men of Night*. Music through the small hours 2.00am 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Round-Up 4.30 The World Today

### VIRGIN

6.30am The Breakfast Show 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Bostol 4.00 Hunter Scott 6.45 Two and Geoff 10.00 Gary Davies 1.00am Richard Allen 4.30 Phil Kennedy

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petric Trelewan presents music and a topical issue  
9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday Tchaikovsky (String Quartet No 1 in D, Op 11); Bizet (Flower Song, Carmen); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 1); Kodaly (Symphony)  
10.30 Artist of the Week: Moura Lympany remembers the theatre designer Frank Matcham  
12.00 Composer of the Week: J.C. Bach  
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert The second of eight recitals given last year at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, featuring music with a strong American bias. Lynn Quarmby, William Hawkins, Viola William Bolcom (Three Rags, Gershwin, Lullaby), Dvorak (String Quartet in E flat, Op 97) (1)  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Philharmonic. Beethoven (Symphony No 5 in C minor); Brahms (Violin Concerto in D); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 1)  
4.00 Voices John Rutter's *Traveller's Song* (songs written before and after the Great War (1)  
5.00 In Tune Humphrey Carpenter's guests include musicians appearing at the Halifax Young Musicians Chamber Music Festival  
7.30 Performance on 3: Endless Parade! celebration of the music of Michael Tippett. Includes *Divine Comedy*, David Samuel, baritone, Craig Ogden, guitar. Nash Ensemble under Martyn Brabbins. Tippett (Sonata for four horns; Songs for Achilles; Suite: The Ice Break, ar

### RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Charlotte Smith presents 5.49 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie 6.00 Between Ourselves News series of discussions about shared experiences. Two surrogate mothers talk to Olivia O'Leary about the ethics and realities of having babies for childless couples  
6.30 Song Lines David Stanford reveals the origins of socialist anthem *The Red Flag* (4/5) (1)  
9.45 (LW) Daily Service Director of music Paul Ledingham  
9.45 (FM) Serial: Choice Chatwin Susannah Clapp reads from *On the Black Hill* by Bruce Chatwin  
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests. Includes *Diary of a Provincial Lady*  
11.00 Tales from the Bank of Beyond The ecologist Aylene Cotterill catches leopards with the Army during a wildlife management exercise in Zimbabwe  
11.30 How Ticked Am I? Mark Radcliffe celebrates the career of little Jimmy Clitheroe, who starred in the longest-running situation comedy on radio (2/6)  
12.00 (LW) News 12.04pm You and Yours Topical consumer news and investigations, with Mark Whittaker and Tricia Rawlinson  
1.00 The World at One Presented by Nick Clarke  
1.30 The Musical Side of Life Family The Countess of Harwood reflects on her involvement with some of the greatest names in the world of music, including Maria Callas and Benjamin Britten (6/6)  
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (1)  
2.15 Afternoon Play Summoned by Shelves The Times columnist Lynne Truss's comedy about an ordered library that descends into anarchy. Starring Rachel Atkins, Douglas Hodge and Sam West. See Choice (1)

3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444 Listeners' views on a topical issue  
3.30 A Name to Remember Barbara Myers explores the work of Thomas Adorno (2/5)  
3.45 This Scattered Isle Anna Massey narrates part 72 of the history of Britain (1)  
4.00 A Good Read The climber Jim Perrin and the writer Marina Warner discuss their favourite paperback with Sarah LaFaru  
4.30 Shop Talk Presented by Heather Payton  
5.00 PM with Clara English and Rose Millard  
6.00 Six O'Clock News  
6.30 I'm Glad You Asked Me That Orfalea guide to modern living, with Michael Bywater, Sean Mao and Philip Pope (3/6)  
7.00 The Archers William makes the ultimate decision  
7.15 Front Row John Wilson discusses memorable film music  
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (1)  
8.00 Euro Squeeze: File on Four Special See Choice  
8.40 In Touch Peter White presents news for visually impaired people  
9.00 Case Notes Graham Easton takes a look at the heart and circulatory system  
9.30 Between Ourselves Broadcast earlier (1)  
10.00 The World Tonight with Justin Webb  
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangels by Robert Harris Read by Alan Howard Part seven  
11.00 Late Night on 4: The New Show Stand-up comedy and sketches (1)  
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Film news and reviews  
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Round-up of the day's events in Westminster  
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book Earthly Joys Kevin Whately reads part seven of Philippa Gregory's novel  
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.5-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 893, 908. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Massey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

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# Dickens served up with no added sugar

I have never understood why film and television adaptations have chosen to lumber Charles Dickens with the image of a dour old sentimentalist. The reality is that Dickens was a sharp and acerbic social chronicler, a brilliant observational journalist whose characters were red-hot with realism when he put them on the page, only to be turned into loveable rogues and heart-in-the-right-place molls when they came to the screen.

This unhappy image manipulation at last gets its comeuppance in *Great Expectations* (BBC2), Tony Marchant's new adaptation which began last night and concludes tonight. The talk has been that Marchant, and the director Julian Jarrold, will upset the purists. Tosh. The only people who will be upset by this are those who have become accustomed to Dickens served lukewarm with too much sugar stirred in.

Marchant and Jarrold have done a brilliant job. I was ready for part one to be slow-moving, not least because BBC classic adaptations have that habit. But pace should not imply speed and there is plenty of the former here. On the few occasions when the plot development flags there are rewarding diversions to be had in the study of mood and the development of character.

The story of Pip and his journey from rags to riches, from orphan boy to smooth professional, is one of the best in the Dickens canon. The nominal tale is interesting but it is only a vehicle for an exploration of many of life's compelling themes, such as love, ambition, abuse and the manipulation of one human being by another.

Marchant's screenplay gets to all these matters with panache and a deft avoidance of sentiment, a fact that will fill Dickens with joy if by any chance he can get BBC

television in his present location. Jarrold has matched the honest bleakness of the script by filming the countryside scenes in washed-out colour, whereas the London settings are more obviously colourful: a nice touch which sends the message that Pip has a brighter urban prospect.

And so to Charlotte Rampling as Miss Havisham, the jilted recluse who is the central manipulator in the piece. Havisham is every man's nightmare, a woman with a long memory, and Rampling is simply outstanding in the part, playing Miss Havisham much younger than all previous screen incarnations and with an understatement that makes the character all the more convincing.

Television documentaries can be annoying and they can be interesting but not all that often are they annoying and interesting.

## REVIEW



Peter Barnard

The return of *Equinox* (Channel 4) last night with a programme called *Living Dangerously* showed that being annoyed enough to want to switch off but interested enough to want to stay tuned doesn't half play havoc with your equilibrium.

Essentially the show was about risk-takers: why do they do it? And it was about the flipside of risk-taking: why are some people

frightened even to go out? The usual suspects were rounded up, including a couple of guys called John and Elliott who enjoy jumping off buildings, bridges, cliffs. I would not be seen dead doing any of that. Well, I would, but dead is the only way.

The most interesting person in the programme was Dr Yu, a Canadian biochemist. Dr Yu? No, Dr Yu (that seems to be his entire name, like Dr No). Dr Yu did a study of violent prisoners from which he discovered that the lower the level of an enzyme called monoamine oxidase — try that at Scrabble — in a person's body, the more likely that person was to want to take risks. Why, Yu? "We were very excited by these findings," Dr Yu said, "but we really don't quite understand what that means to us."

Oh well. The part of the programme that got me annoyed was when it started dealing with

everyday risk using statistics. The notion postulated here was that perceived risk is all got up by the media. For illustration we were told that 15 people are likely to die each year from new variant CJD (the human version of BSE) whereas four times as many people drown in the bath.

What have the two things got to do with each other? Should the media have stopped publicising the fact that eating sick cows could kill human beings and start a campaign to prevent people washing themselves except under the supervision of Duncan Goodhew? Unrelated statistics are the last resort of the television documentary and *Equinox* is far too good to have to bother with such devices.

Which leaves scant space to mention *Mystery of the Mummies*, first of a three-part series on Channel 4 about lost

civilisations. Last night's was a sumptuously filmed and carefully constructed tale of the Guanches, a cave dwelling people who lived in the Canary Islands. The fact that they mummified their dead suggested an Egyptian connection which Dr Joann Fletcher, an Egyptologist, set out to prove.

The film followed them, from the Canaries to Morocco to a slab at Addenbrooke's Hospital, where we had a look at a mummy. It turns out to be only 600 years old, one of the youngest mummies around. And the Canaries-Africa link is proven by the way the mummies had been bound and stored and from evidence, in Morocco, of human occupation and burial sites similar to those of the Guanches. We didn't hear what the mummy died of: probably tripped over a joint of beef on the bone and fell down the stairs.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (59435)
  - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (28232)
  - 9.00 Killy (1) (908690)
  - 9.45 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (714665)
  - 10.15 The Vanessa Show (1) (5340354)
  - 11.00 News: Weather (1) (908623)
  - 11.05 City Hospital (1) (908623)
  - 11.55 News: Weather (1) (404546)
  - 12.00 Going for a Song (683333)
  - 12.25pm Wipeout (8339918)
  - 12.50 The Weather Show (1) (78854955)
  - 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (38619)
  - 1.30 Regional News: Weather (5824400)
  - 1.40 Neighbours (1) (1812597)
  - 2.05 Through the Keyhole (1) (1) (2039110)
  - 2.55 Through the Keyhole (1) (1) (2039110)
  - 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (8478394)
  - 3.45 Arthur (2538232) 4.10 Rugrats (1380416) 4.20 Julia Jolly and Harriet Hyde (5343706) 4.35 G Force (7471139) 5.00 Newsround (5403936) 5.10 Trading Places (2337435)
  - 5.33 Rewind (1) (381503)
  - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (604110)
  - 6.00 Six O'Clock News: Weather (1) (634)
  - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (936)
  - 7.00 Holiday in Jerusalem, a weekend break in Jerusalem, an all-inclusive trip to Jerusalem and the delights of historic Cambridge. Last in series (1) (6961)
  - 7.30 EastEnders (1) (348)
  - 8.00 Animal Hospital: Roll Harris returns to the RSPCA Animal Hospital in Putney, southwest London (1) (9481)

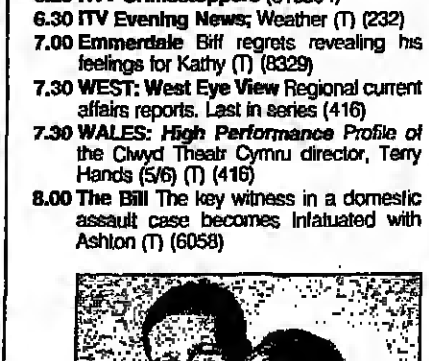
- BBC2**
- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts (5331752) 7.10 The Silver Brumby (960706) 7.35 Top Cat (8229042) 7.55 The Bots Master (8305058) 8.20 Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (8018329) 8.40 Blue Peter (8285435) 9.10 Goober and the Ghost Chasers (7913936) 9.35 Student Bodies (8878868) 10.00 Teletubbies (83058) 10.30 FILM: The Five Thousand Fingers of Dr T (9180232) 11.55 The Munsters (4087348) 12.20pm Beautiful Things (9212225) 12.30 Working Lunch (92049) 1.00 Oakie Doke (3823077)
  - 1.10 The Leisure Hour (1) (1768481)
  - 2.10 Sporting Greats (89910329)
  - 2.40 News: Weather (1) (8241481)
  - 2.45 Westminster (1) (5087313)
  - 3.25 News: Weather (1) (817619)
  - 3.30 Call My Bluff (482)
  - 4.00 The Village (1) (129874)
  - 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (7122961)
  - 4.55 Esther (1) (8241771)
  - 5.30 Whose House? (313)
  - 6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air: American comedy with Will Smith (1) (573042)
  - 6.25 Heartbreak High: The students receive their exam results (1) (237322)



A fire ant, a creature with a strange affinity with electricity (8.30pm)

- 7.10 The O Zone: Jerry Middlemiss meets Suede and Jamie Theakston gets the lowdown on Heaven's split from Honeyz (1) (597042)
- 7.30 Counterblast: Movement Against the Monarchy member Chris Love enlists the help of Dennis Skinner, MP, and the royal biographer Anthony Holden in this diatribe against the House of Windsor (1) (7023)
- 8.30 The Antiques Show: New series. Flora Bruce finds out how to make millions from buying and selling. Nina Campbell reveals the latest 'must-haves' in collectibles, and James Breeze scours the fairs in search of Twentieth Century Bait (1) (9055)
- 9.00 Great Expectations Conclusion: Estella spurns Pip and throws herself away on a shallow marriage (1) (8173226)
- 10.30 Video Nation Shorts (1) (817690)
- 10.40 Newsnight: Including a news summary at 11.00 (1) (400658)
- 11.25 Ice Skating: The World Championship Gala Exhibition routines (905329)
- 11.55 Weather (752619)
- 12.00 Despatch Box (55733)
- 12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Open Advice: Surviving the exam 1.00 A Robot in the Past? 1.30 Engineering Materials: Hidden Power 2.00 Exam Revision 4.00 Languages: Deutsch Plus, 1-4 5.00 Business and Training: Career Moves — Beauty and Complementary Therapy 5.45 Open University: History of Science 6.10 Things at the Alhambra 6.35 Out of the Blue?

- HTV**
- 5.30am ITV Morning News (79787)
  - 6.00 GMTV (268640)
  - 9.25 Trisha (1) (3511771)
  - 10.30 This Morning (1) (49135139)
  - 12.15pm HTV News (1) (7081023)
  - 12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (1) (2785077)
  - 12.55 Shortland Street (1771581)
  - 1.30 Lie Detector (1) (16171481)
  - 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (5046139)
  - 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (1) (2035394)
  - 3.10 ITV News Headlines (1) (580690)
  - 3.15 HTV News (1) (5808861)
  - 3.20 CITY: Mals (5805874) 3.25 Rosie and Jim (5750110) 3.40 The Wombles (4082555) 3.50 Scooby and Scrappy Doo (7085874) 4.10 Scooby (7135435) 4.40 The Quick Trick Show (2975481)
  - 5.00 Lie Detector (1) (1) (5865)
  - 5.30 WEST: Can You Keep a Secret? Michaela absconds down a church tower in north Nibley (7/7) (1) (139)
  - 5.30 WALES: Night Owls: A psychiatrist afraid of the dark (5/6) (1) (139)
  - 5.58 HTV Weather (395706)
  - 6.00 HTV News (1) (752)
  - 6.25 WALES: Party Election Broadcast by Pled Cymru (816394)
  - 6.29 HTV Crime Stories (816394)
  - 6.30 HTV Evening News: Weather (1) (232)
  - 7.00 Emmerdale: Bill resigns, revealing his feelings for Kathy (1) (8329)
  - 7.30 WEST: West Eye View: Regional current affairs reports. Last in series (416)
  - 7.30 WALES: High Performance Profile of the Cymru Theatre Cymru director, Terry Hands (5/6) (1) (416)
  - 8.00 The Bill: The key witness in a domestic assault case becomes infatuated with Ashton (1) (6058)



The happy couple? — Greg Cordell and Carla Germaine (9pm)

- 9.00 Two Strangers and a Wedding: Second film following the fortunes of Greg Cordell and Carla Germaine (2/2) (1) (3394)
- 10.00 Wonderful You: Clare and Marshall prepare to walk down the aisle (1) (8415)
- 11.00 HTV Nightly News: Weather (1) (270145)
- 11.20 HTV News and Weather (1) (622019)
- 11.35 The Thoughts of Chapman Al with Warren Mitchell (1) (320558)
- 12.05am Tales from the Crypt: A gold-digging waitress mares an unrepentant fat man, convinced he's about to inherit a fortune. Demi Moore stars (1) (883975)
- 12.35 The Haunted Flank (2187649)
- 1.05 The Jerry Springer Show (3711337)
- 1.50 Judge Judy (1) (306725)
- 2.10 Wish You Were Here? (1) (1) (7432733)
- 2.40 McGowan's Way: New series of rambling around the island, with Ollie McGowan (1) (4006181)
- 3.05 Football Extra Highlights (1) (3553269)
- 4.00 ITV Sport Classics (5542267)
- 4.20 Coach (31842612)
- 4.45 Soundtrack (74361559)
- 4.50 HTV Nightscreen (3372820)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.20-12.30pm Central News: Weather (9209752)
  - 12.55 Lie Detector (2697868)
  - 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4861684)
  - 2.10-2.40 Heart of the Country (98834955)
  - 3.15-3.20 Central News (5808961)
  - 5.30 Shortland Street (139)
  - 6.00-6.30 Central News at Six: Weather (752)
  - 7.30-8.00 30 Minutes (416)
  - 11.20-11.30 Central News: Weather (807868)
  - 11.30-12.30 Renegade (46042)
  - 3.50am Central Jobfinder (8416269)
  - 5.00-5.30 Asian Eye (935006)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.15pm Westcountry News (7081023)
  - 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9217771)
  - 12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live: Weather (2697868)
  - 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4861684)
  - 2.10-2.40 Lie Detector (98834955)
  - 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News: Weather (5808961)
  - 4.58-5.00 Birthday People (1392936)
  - 5.30 Our House (139)
  - 6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live: Weather (752)
  - 7.30-8.00 Stranger Than Fiction (416)
  - 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News: Weather (807868)
  - 11.30-12.35 Renegade (31705) — ELS

- ANGEL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (9352416)
  - 12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (1) (232)
  - 12.30-1.15 The Big Breakfast (25239394)
  - 1.15-1.30 Anglia News (1) (232)
  - 1.30-1.45 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner (416)
  - 1.45-1.55 Anglia Air Watch (232655)
  - 1.55-2.00 Anglia News and Weather (1) (807868)
  - 2.00-2.15 Taid (7348646)

- S4C**
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (8625394)
  - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (9934435) 8.00 The Bigger Breakfast (92174226) 9.05 Saved By the Bell (1) (9221042) 9.30 Sam and Max (1) (9335077) 10.00 CatDog (8205684) 10.15 Planet Pop (42575522) 10.45 Moebea (1) (4372512) 11.15 The Bigger Breakfast (25239394) 11.30 Powerhouse (90646329) 12.00 Bewitched (1) (7) (63302597) 12.30pm Sesame Street (1) (92239655) 1.00 Planned Planet (1) (98831394) 1.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (1) (1) (9107855) 1.55 Racing from Newmarket (15229263) 2.00 The Big Breakfast (25239394) 2.15 The Bigger Breakfast (25239394) 2.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (1) (1) (9107855) 2.55 The Bigger Breakfast (25239394) 3.00 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (1) (1) (9107855) 3.15 The Bigger Breakfast (25239394) 3.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (1) (1) (9107855) 3.45 The Bigger Breakfast (25239394) 4.00 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (1) (1) (9107855) 4.15 The Bigger Breakfast (25239394) 4.30 The Ocean World of John Stoneman (1) (1) (9107855) 4.45 The 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MOTOR RACING 44

Fortune favours  
Frentzen over  
luckless Hill

# SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 13 1999

RUGBY UNION 50

World Cup hopes  
lifted after  
Five Nations fillip

100,000  
FOR THEM

## Ealham helps to avoid record England fly home with hollow victory

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN SHARJAH

SHARJAH (England won  
toss): England beat Pakistan  
by 63 runs

AFTER seven successive  
defeats, any victory will be  
celebrated as though it were the  
glorious conclusion of an  
important event. This win yester-  
day, against a diffident Pakis-  
tani side, hardly signifies that  
England's plans for the World  
Cup are back on course, but at  
least they will not enter the  
tournament with a record-  
equalling eight successive one-  
day losses to their name.

When Vince Wells held the  
final catch to dismiss Shoaib  
Akhtar, the Leicestershire all-  
rounder threw the ball high  
into the air and rushed to the  
wicket, where the fielders  
embraced in relief as much as  
joy. Although England will fly

home tomorrow still having  
failed to reach the final of the  
Coca-Cola Cup, their faces will  
not be quite so long.

Members of the 15-man  
squad will return to their coun-  
tries before regrouping on May  
2 for a training camp ahead of  
the matches against Kent,  
Essex and Hampshire that pre-

cede the opening game of the  
World Cup, against Sri Lanka  
on May 14. It remains to be  
seen whether the selectors' thinking will change as a  
result of the largely disappoint-  
ing events of the past week here.

The squad itself is set in  
stone, but the emergence of  
Andrew Flintoff has to be  
weighed against a decline in  
the form of Robert Croft and  
Adam Hoggie, while the bat-  
ting of Alec Stewart is a cause  
for concern. At least, after a  
poor series, Mark Ealham  
returned figures of four for 30  
to win the man-of-the-match  
award yesterday.

Pakistan were penalised two  
overs in reply to a target of 207  
because of a slow over-rate  
and the fact that Wasim  
Akram declined to bowl his  
full quota revealed much  
about his side's attitude to the  
contest. When Flintoff bowled  
Moin in his first over to end a  
troublesome sixth-wicket part-  
nership, the Pakistan lower  
order offered flimsy resistance  
and succumbed to 144 all out  
with 7.2 overs to go, some 40  
minutes ahead of the sched-  
uled finish.

A sparse crowd of little more  
than 2,000 reflected the redun-  
dancy of the fixture. Not even  
a strong expatriate Pakistani  
community could muster  
enthusiasm for what they  
clearly anticipated would be  
another straightforward win.  
The final against India on  
Friday, a repeat of the last  
group game tonight, will not  
be played in such a funeral  
atmosphere.

England enjoyed the advan-  
tage of batting first for the only  
time in the tournament. It  
enabled them to field in the  
relative comfort of tempera-  
tures below 30C. With the  
pitch, being used for the third  
time in less than a week, now  
slow enough to militate  
against stroke-makers, the  
total provided an opportunity  
to earn the first points of the  
tournament, albeit belatedly.

At 86 for five in the 24th  
over, it appeared that England  
were about to set a far easier  
target. The selectors here -  
David Graveney, David Lloyd  
and Stewart - altered the bat-  
ting order again and while  
Neil Fairbrother at least saw  
himself promoted after the de-  
bacle against India on Sun-  
day, No 7 is still too low for  
England's best limited-overs  
batsman.



Gough launches a loud but unsuccessful appeal for leg-before against Ijaz during England's 62-run triumph yesterday

Knight chipped Shoaib to  
mid-wicket and Stewart, again  
uneasy, sliced to backward  
point, where Ijaz held a good  
low catch. A direct hit by the  
same fielder accounted for  
Wells before Azhar, a decep-  
tively handy bowler, baffled  
Hick with a slower ball and  
then saw Flintoff push down

the wrong line two balls later.  
It was left to Thorpe and Fair-  
brother to engineer a recovery.  
Ealham responded to the  
challenge of lifting England  
from 129 for six with his best  
innings of the tour. He gave  
the necessary support to  
Thorpe in a 63-run part-  
nership before Shoaib returned to

the attack. The fast bowler  
from Rawalpindi found re-  
verse swing to york Thorpe for  
62, compiled from 80 balls,  
and, in his next over, bowled  
Ealham with a fast, straight  
ball to finish with four for 37.  
Here, it seems, is one of the  
potential stars of the World  
Cup.

## Sutton's injury strikes him out

BY STEPHEN WOOD

CHRIS SUTTON, the Black-  
burn Rovers striker, is not ex-  
pected to play again this sea-  
son after conceding defeat in  
his battle against a groin inju-  
ry. His absence is another  
grievous blow to Blackburn's  
aim of avoiding relegation  
from the FA Carling Premier-  
ship and casts doubt on his  
own hopes of playing for Eng-  
land before their next Europe-  
an qualifying matches against  
Sweden and Bulgaria in June.

Sutton's season had been  
blighted already by injury and  
suspension, but a month ago,  
it appeared that the worst  
might have passed. He re-  
turned to the fray at Ewood  
Park and was recalled to the  
England squad. However, it  
was while Sutton was with  
England, before the European  
championship qualifying  
match against Poland last

month, that the full extent of  
his injury unfolded.  
Sutton injured his groin ini-  
tially in Blackburn's 3-1 league  
win against Wimbledon and,  
although he joined up with the  
international squad, he with-  
drew before the Poland en-  
counter. Subsequently, he com-  
pleted two full club games -  
against Middlesbrough and  
Arsenal - but it was clear that  
he was not fully fit.

Brian Kidd, the Blackburn  
manager, has said many times  
that the "mere presence of Sut-  
ton" lifts those around him.  
That is why he has been  
pressed into action while carry-  
ing the problem, but Black-  
burn acknowledged yesterday  
that they could no longer put  
their striker at risk of sustain-  
ing a more serious injury.

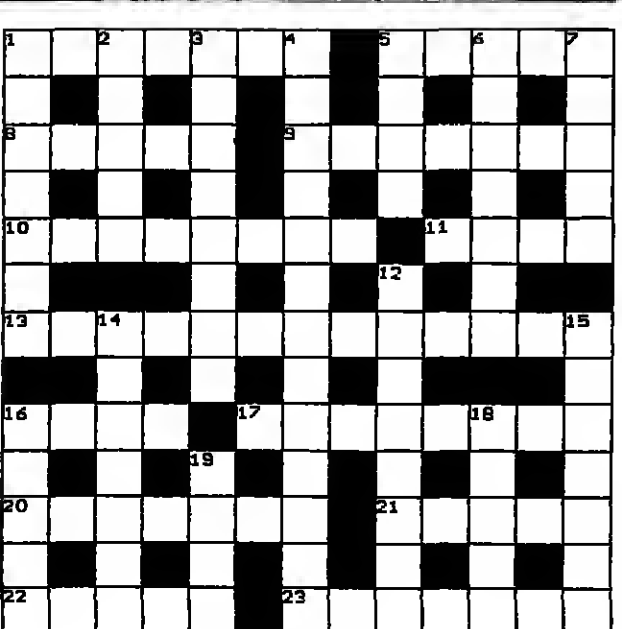
Sutton will not need an op-  
eration, but with only six games  
remaining, it is unlikely that  
remedial treatment will heal  
the problem quickly enough  
for him to return before the  
season's end.

Everton are hoping that Rob  
Harris, the referee in their  
Premiership match against Cov-  
entry City on Sunday, will re-  
consider his decision to dismiss  
Marco Materazzi, their de-  
fender. Materazzi received a  
second yellow card for a chal-  
enge on Darren Huckerby,  
but video replays appear to  
show that no contact was  
made.

### SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

ENGLAND	PAKISTAN
N V Knight c Wasim b Shoaib 26	Wasim Akram c Thorpe b Fraser 31
(35 balls, 3 fours)	(53 balls, 4 fours)
*M A Stewart c Ijaz b Shoaib 11	Shoaib Akhtar c Wells b Gough 3
(33 balls)	(10 balls)
V J Wells run out (1st) 3	Ijaz Ahmed c Knight b Fraser 16
(32 balls)	(13 balls, 3 fours)
O A Hick b Mahmood 24	Izzatullah Khan b Fraser 6
(33 balls, 1 four)	(14 balls)
G P Thorpe b Shoaib 62	Saleem Malik not out 47
(80 balls, 3 fours)	(77 balls, 1 six, 1 four)
A Flintoff b Mahmood 23	Azhar Mahmood c Wells b Ealham 13
(25 balls)	(21 balls, 2 fours)
N H Fairbrother c Wasim b Akhtar 25	*Mohd Khan b Flintoff 23
(35 balls, 1 four)	(37 balls, 1 six, 1 four)
M A Ealham b Shoaib 36	*Wasim Akram lbw b Ealham 2
(47 balls, 2 fours)	(8 balls)
I O Ahsan run out (Moin/Moin) 1	Saqibain Mushtaq b Ealham 0
(1 ball)	(7 balls)
O Gough c Akhtar b Saqibain 5	Azhar Khan lbw b Ealham 0
(8 balls)	(1 ball)
A R C Fraser not out 0	Shoaib Akhtar c Wells b Flintoff 0
(0 balls)	(12 balls)
Extras (R 6 W 5 NB 2) 13	Edras (R 1 W 2 NB 1) 4
Total (45.1 overs, 220mins) 206	Total (40.2 overs, 172mins) 144
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42 (Stewart 14), 2-48 (Thorpe 13), 3-56 (Thorpe 13), 4-128 (Thorpe 36), 5-132 (Ealham 23), 6-153 (Ealham 36), 7-206 (Gough 5)	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12 (Wells 7), 2-34 (Wells 12), 3-53 (Wells 23), 4-72 (Wells 14), 5-91 (Wells 19), 6-138 (Wells 43), 7-141 (Wells 44), 8-142 (Wells 45), 9-143 (Wells 46)
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 7-0-25-0 (16.2), N V 1-0-1-0 (1.1), M A 1-0-1-0 (1.1), G P 1-0-1-0 (1.1), A F 1-0-1-0 (1.1), N H 1-0-1-0 (1.1), I O 1-0-1-0 (1.1), O G 1-0-1-0 (1.1), A R C 1-0-1-0 (1.1)	BOWLING: Gough 8-1-39-1 (16.1), W 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1690

- ACROSS**
- 1 Evacuate drop (7)
  - 2 Sparkling vigour (5)
  - 3 Impasse (5)
  - 4 Day of Christmas drummers sent (7)
  - 5 Lazy (8)
  - 6 Indistinct sight (4)
  - 7 Comprehensive reference book (13)
  - 8 Month named for J. Caesar (4)
  - 9 Miserable, pitiable (8)
  - 10 Kabul monetary unit (7)
  - 11 Make more interesting (5)
  - 12 Smooth, unobtrusive (5)
  - 13 Vital, defining quality (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Assign authorship (to) (7)
  - 2 Unpleasantly pungent (5)
  - 3 Impasse (5)
  - 4 Absolutely no way! (3,2,4,4)
  - 5 Change direction (clockwise) (4)
  - 6 Discomposed (7)
  - 7 Imaginary interstellar medium (5)
  - 8 Capt. Nemo's submarine (Verne) (8)
  - 9 German city; toilet water (7)
  - 10 Still firm (when cooked) (2,5)
  - 11 Denims (5)
  - 12 Port of safety (5)
  - 13 Soak up sun (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1689**

**ACROSS:** 1 Steam 2 Elf 3 Peter 4 Berners 5 Befell 6 Get on 7 Little 8 Bright 9 Orion 10 Licked 11 Stadium 12 Patti 13 PTO 14 Edinburgh

**DOWN:** 1 Sops 2 Entreat 3 Mar 4 Dabble 5 Paregoric 6 Elect 7 Fishnet 8 Eglantine 9 Looks up 15 Greaser 16 Alumnus 17 Imago 20 Dish 22 Pub

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## Armchair fans keep watching right through to the last putt

THERE were so many  
competing sporting events on  
British television over the past  
weekend that only the Grand  
National attracted more than  
ten million viewers.

With audiences juggling  
two FA Cup semi-finals, the  
final round of the Five Na-  
tions Championship, the Bra-  
zilian Grand Prix, Naesem  
Ham's defence of his feath-  
erweight world title and the  
concluding two days of the  
Masters, it was almost inevit-  
able that many viewers would  
have had enough long before  
Jose Maria Olazabal holed  
the winning putt at Augusta  
- yet still there were more

than two million people watch-  
ing that moment, even if the  
time was 12.15am.

The Grand National al-  
ways enjoys a high audience,  
partly because it lasts just  
over eight minutes, thus at-  
tracting a passing interest  
from much of the population.  
In 1998, the race was the only  
non-football event to make the  
top ten British viewing figures  
- in World Cup year - with  
an audience of 11.4 million.  
This year, it had 10.2 million.

An average of 2.3 million  
watched BBC2 on Saturday to  
see Scotland beat France in  
Paris in the Five Nations,  
while an average of five mil-  
lion viewers saw Wales beat  
England so dramatically in  
the other match on Sunday.  
Usually Five Nations games  
on Saturdays - and certainly  
those involving England -  
have attracted an average of  
more than six million viewers  
on terrestrial television.

The game between Wales  
and England at Wembley had  
the advantage of being on  
BBC1 and screened at 4pm on  
a Sunday, which has a bigger  
potential target audience.  
One reason for the relative-

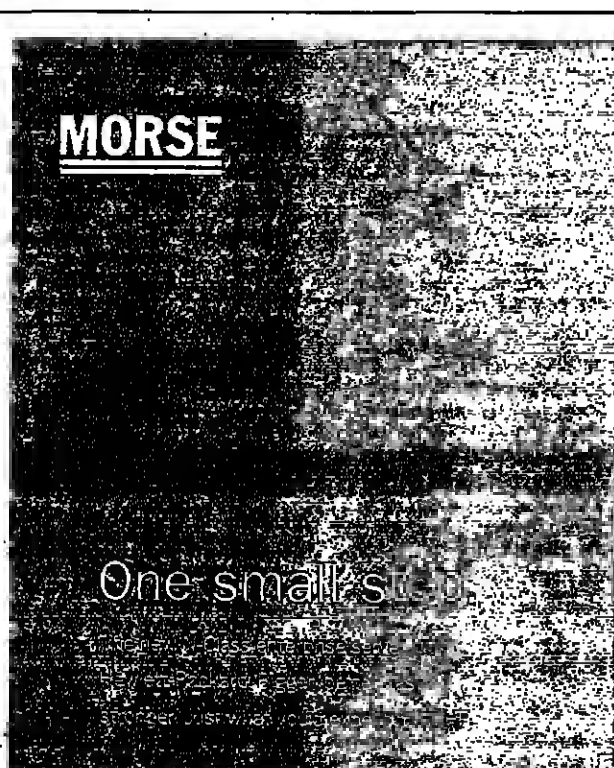
first semi-final were among  
the top ten for domestic match-  
es this season.

ITV must have been heart-  
ened by the 5.45pm start to the  
Brazilian Grand Prix, a race  
that had an average audience  
of 7.5 million. This was almost  
twice the usual number that  
watch grands prix in Europe,  
when the races are televised in  
early afternoon.

Coverage of the Masters  
began at 9pm on BBC2 and av-  
eraged 3.1 million over more  
than three hours, perhaps be-  
cause of Lee Westwood's early  
charge in the final round that  
at one point gave him a share  
of the lead.



More than two million people were glued to their sets when Olazabal won the Masters early yesterday



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